GLAD TIDINGS
WMS
70
ACTS 13:33 XR
RANKINE
RANKINE
.....HE HAS RAISED UP JESUS AGAIN ACTS 13:33

January/February 1995

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Glad Tidings

JAN./FEB. 1995 **Vol. 71 No.1**

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

- Cover Artist David Rankine

Happy 70th Anniversary
Glad Tidings

In 1995 Glad Tidings celebrates 70 years of witness to the Women's Missionary Society (Western Division) and to the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

To help us celebrate we commissioned artist David Rankine to create a piece of the Celtic art for which he is so well known. The cover, *The Seven Messengers* is the result. See if you can locate those seven angelic heralds!

The art is based not only on the familiar passage in Luke 2 of the angels bringing "glad tidings" of the birth of a Saviour, but on the passage in Acts 13:32, 33a "And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled...in that he hath raised up Jesus again."

Interestingly, the King James version is one of the few that uses the phrase "glad tidings". More common is the term "good news". More on that in future issues.

David Rankine is of Scottish Presbyterian background. (His mother Jean is active on all levels of the WMS.) Formerly a member of Glenview Church, Toronto, David and his wife Allison, and family attend St. Andrew's, Aurora, Ontario.

In his work, David "seeks to recover the ancient traditions [of art in worship] by producing illuminations based on Celtic Christian designs and motifs. Illuminations are the result of a centuries-old marriage between calligraphy and illustration."[1] The Book of Kells is one of the most famous examples of illumination.

David graduated in fine art in 1982 from York University, Downsview, Ontario. Since 1987, he has pursued art full-time. His work is exhibited at the Linda Jenkins Gallery in Aurora. David's work can also be seen and purchased at international shows such as the "One of a Kind", Toronto.

David "utilizes gouche paint (a high quality tempera pigment) on acid-free paper. His paintings are done completely free-hand, using only paint and brush and without any magnification aids. The finished products are unique and modern pieces, built upon the colour and design traditions of early Celtic art."[2]

The Seven Messengers will be used in 1995 to celebrate Glad Tidings 70th Anniversary. Watch for more information on how you can get your own full-colour copy of the poster, one colour Glad Tidings notes and other anniversary material.

Plans are being made for a celebration at Council '95 and the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be reproducing Rankine's art on a church bulletin.

Help us celebrate 70 years and plan for the future.

June

[1, 2] *Words of Fire: David Rankine and the Art of Illumination* by Gunar Kravalis. The Presbyterian Record. December, 1990

Voices from the Past...

Each issue of Glad Tidings in 1995 will have selected material from previous issues. Following is a timely? and thought-provoking editorial.

Editorial

Glad Tidings...the magazine has been in print for fifty years, and its several ancestors add even more years to that total. For months now, I've been trying to remove myself from involvement at the very roots of it (the mounds of paper, paste pots, scissors and ink smudges) just long enough to look at the finished product objectively. That the magazine should be an effective mission education tool is never doubted. So, I ask questions like "Who are we trying to reach?" and "Are we reaching them?"

We are trying to interest people (men and women) throughout the whole church in the on-going mission story. The evidence is, however, that the magazine, a main source of mission information, has an almost totally private readership, that readership being found largely within WMS groups. The Glad Tidings is regarded by many as the WMS magazine only to be used by the group. Even then, the total number of subscribers is about half the membership of the Society.

The Women's Missionary Society, W.D., through the Editorial Committee prints the magazine because they feel the information contained therein should be circulated. Does the magazine need a fresh new start as a magazine for everyone to read?

The Editorial Committee and your Editor are asking this question. Does the name "Glad Tidings" confine the message it brings, that confinement coming because of the long established connotations built into the name? We want to establish a new image for the magazine, that image saying "This is a magazine for everyone, and what it has to say is in the now and is about the happenings of today!"

To do that, should the name of the magazine be changed? Changing the name of a magazine is a matter that should be approached cautiously, not on a whim, but after careful consideration. The name should reflect what is within its pages. It must attract the attention of prospective readers and make them want to know the information it contains. It can't cling to its original days of high circulation when that name was in vogue.

The magazine, all it holds being contained in its name, must reach present-day readers. The language, including its name, should relate to and be their language. It must be in terms they know. It can't use words which for many years have ceased to have meaning.

Bearing these things in mind, we are considering the matter: should the magazine have a new name? Looking into the archives, we realize this has happened before. It has happened with other periodicals as well.

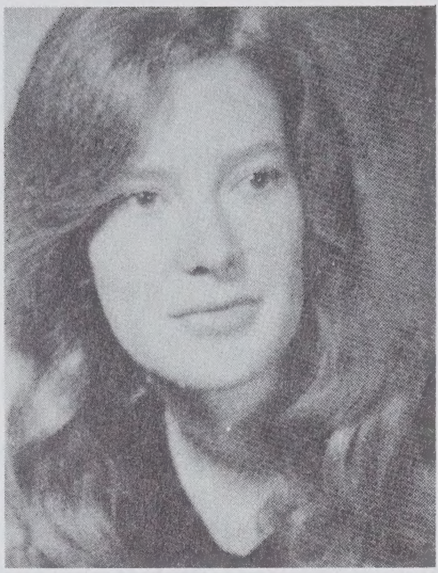
Once again, we invite the

readers to participate in making this decision, discussing it in your groups, presbyterials and synodicals. We ask you to let us know the outcome of your discussion. Should you feel the time for change has come, submit possible names with your report. In any case, make us aware of your opinion.

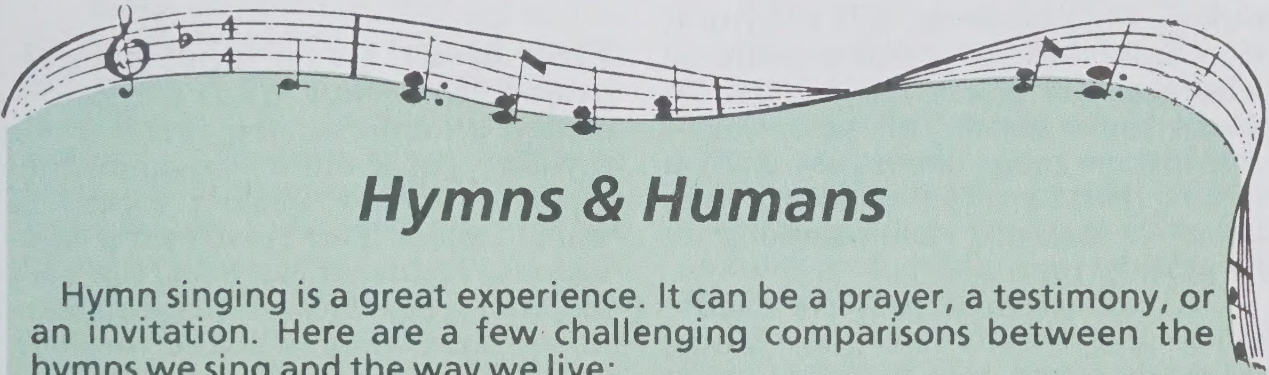
With so many people thinking about it, the right decision is sure to emerge!

LMP,
January 1974

- Laura M. Plummer was Editor of Glad Tidings from 1972-1975.



- Laura M. Plummer



Hymns & Humans

Hymn singing is a great experience. It can be a prayer, a testimony, or an invitation. Here are a few challenging comparisons between the hymns we sing and the way we live:

We sing *Sweet Hour of Prayer...* and content ourselves with five to ten minutes of prayer a day; sometimes even less!

We sing *Onward Christian Soldiers...* and wait to be drafted in His service.

We sing *There shall be showers of blessing...* but do not come to church when it is raining.

We sing *Serve the Lord with gladness...* and complain about all we have to do.

We sing *We're Marching to Zion...* but fail to march to Church.

We sing *I love to tell the story...* but never mention it to our neighbours and friends.

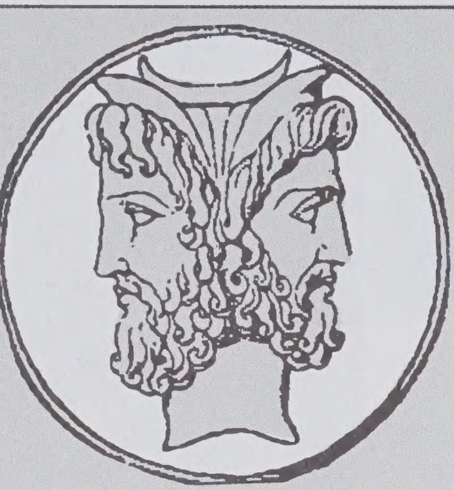
We sing *Cast thy burden on the Lord...* and worry ourselves into nervous breakdowns.

We sing *O Day of Rest and Gladness...* and wear ourselves out travelling on Sundays.

We sing *The whole wide world for Jesus...* and never invite our next door neighbour to Church.

We sing *Throw out the Lifeline...* and content ourselves with throwing out a fishing line.

With acknowledgements to Parables for Preachers, and The Scottsville newsletter, September 1993.



A Time for New Goals

by Bonnie Nikkel

The turkey leftovers are almost gone, the holidays are waning and it's time to take the tree down. The new year is upon us. It's a natural time to be reflective, and to evaluate where we are going in our lives. No doubt the tradition of New Year's resolutions came from just such a feeling. But too often we simply take a deep breath and rush headlong into another year.

At this time of year we should all be like the Roman god, Janus, after whom the month of January is named. He was believed to be the guardian of the doors of the year. He was depicted as having two faces, one looking behind him and the other looking ahead. As we stand at the door to another year, we should look behind and ahead, to consider what we have learned or experienced in 1994, and to contemplate what changes we wish to see in 1995.

Unfortunately, we are often vague when it comes to personal change. We wish we were different, more spiritual, better "pray"-ers, thinner, more patient, a better witness, the list goes on and on. But how can we move beyond our vague longings towards successful change?

Let me suggest that writing down clear, balanced goals for the coming year is superior to general resolutions, or vague longings. Goals can drive us on towards our desired end. How can we make goals that we can achieve?

First of all, goals must be balanced. One New Year's Eve recently, an enterprising reporter for my local paper did a woman-on-the-street interview, asking dozens of women about their New Year's resolutions. To his amazement, the vast majority, regardless of their appearance, said they wanted to lose weight! If we were to do a similar survey in our churches, I believe many Christian women too would say they want to lose weight and also to read the Bible more. While either of these goals might be worthwhile, I would venture to guess that these women have had the same resolutions every year since they started to make them. To be stuck in the same rut year after year is counterproductive.

We always seem to focus on an area of weakness. But Jesus, who in fact had no weaknesses, developed in many areas. Luke 2:52 says that Jesus "grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." His development was balanced, mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. What about us? When was the last time you made a decision to develop yourself in some of these areas? Let's be pro-active in our lives, not just focusing on weaknesses.

Second, goals need to be measurable. At the start of the year, I use this verse in Luke as a pattern for goal-setting, and write one or two clear goals for each area: physical, mental, spiritual and social. I keep in mind that goals need to be measurable; so specific that I could take a picture of myself accomplishing them. Too often we fail to change because we do not know what the desired end looks like, and consequently, do not know if we are progressing.

For example, let's say my desire in my spiritual life is to read my Bible more. A clear goal would be to say, "My goal for 1994 is to read one chapter of the Bible three days each week." That's measurable. When the week is over, I can evaluate whether or not I was on track.

Goals flow out of our desires. My goals reflect what I wish I was like. To keep our goals measurable, we must keep in mind that they are made up of two parts: (1) the clear statement – what I want to look like, and (2) action steps – what I'm going to do to move towards achieving my goal. That means I need to add details after I've written the goal – in this case, I could write down where I intend to read the Bible, at what time, which three days, what chapters, etc.

For instance, let's say one desire I have socially is to have more non-Christian friends, with whom I can share my faith. My clear goal statement could read, "In 1994, I would like to make one new non-Christian friend." My action steps would be varied, but I might resolve to:

Goals must be balanced and measurable.

1. Attend neighborhood coffee klatsches at Community League building every Tuesday morning until end of March.

2. Pray to find someone there who has similar interests.

3. By March, select two or three women to invite to my exercise class.

This gives you an idea of how specific action-steps can be. As you can see, they all move me towards my objective of making a new non-Christian friend.

Periodically, it's helpful to read over the goals to see if you are still on track and to be encouraged by the steps you have accomplished.

Recently, I read over my goals from last year. One goal I had made in the "mental" category, was to increase my ability to use my computer. My action steps included: "Investigate taking the computer course Karen took; find out from Laurie how to do two-column format; call Ken at the Computer Guild to ask about our printer." I did not do all of these, but because I did some, I achieved my goal. I have better computer ability this year than a year ago.

Mission accomplished!

Third, our goals are often achieved through accountability. How many people do you know who have tried to quit smoking or lose weight, but didn't tell anyone until they'd achieved their goal? They were afraid that if others knew, it would be more difficult for them.

But, in fact, the opposite is true. Often, it is because others know that we can succeed.

Last year I wanted to lose 15 pounds and went on a specific diet recommended by my friend Chris. We talked on the phone a few times, giving each other encouragement and ideas about food. After I lost my desired weight, I felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment in achieving a goal. Then, in the spring, I went to a conference. Chris was also there. Because I knew she was in the dining room, and might walk by my table and see what was on my plate at any moment, I was strongly motivated to bypass the brownies and pie. I'm sure she felt the same. Without her presence, I might have fallen off the wagon and gone home pounds heavier. I did not want that to happen, and her presence gave me needed motivation and strength.

God intended us to help each other. That's why He used the "body concept" when referring to His Church. It's scriptural to share some of our goals with others and to enlist their help. Keeping a friend informed of your progress will more readily ensure your success.

> *Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*
>
> Luke 2:52 NIV

NEW YEAR
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The more difficult the goal, the greater the need for accountability. I didn't need a friend to encourage me about developing my computer skills, because that was fun, and I was already strongly motivated. But what about my goal to keep having a "quiet time" three times a week? Do I have a friend with whom I can regularly share what I'm learning from my Bible? If I do, I will not miss my quiet time very often.

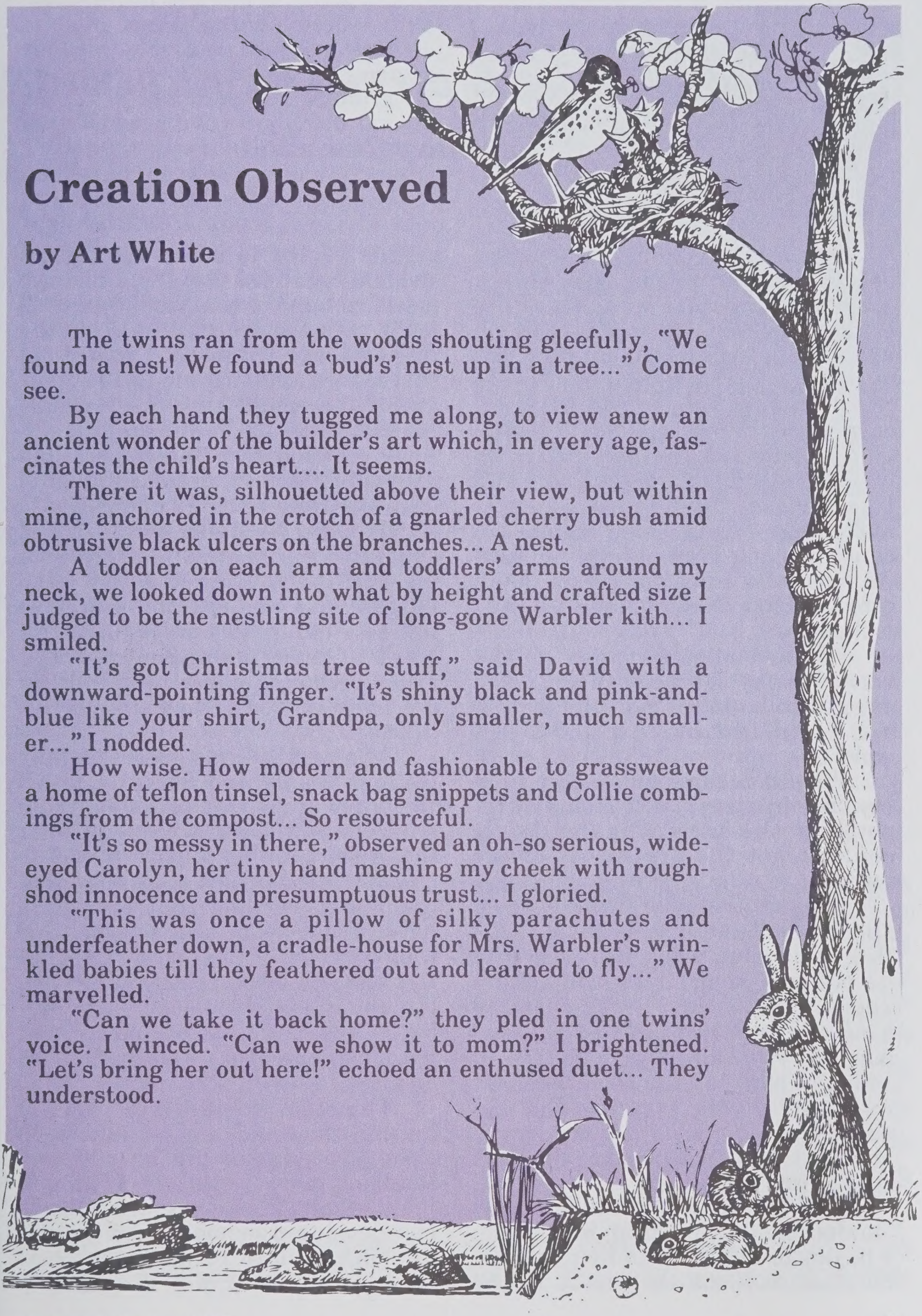
I have one friend who keeps me accountable for memorizing Scripture. She memorizes Scripture herself, and whenever we meet at Bible study we exchange verses. I want to memorize, but I find it really hard. I know that if I did not have this arrangement with Marilyn, I would never memorize. She helps me meet my chosen goal.

What about you? Are there areas where you would like to develop this coming year? Start with a clean sheet of paper. Think about your life in the mental, spiritual, social and personal areas. Keep in mind "balanced, measurable, accountability". And look ahead to a year where you will experience the satisfaction of goals achieved!

- Printed in *Sally Ann,* January 1994

Creation Observed

by Art White



The twins ran from the woods shouting gleefully, "We found a nest! We found a 'bud's' nest up in a tree..." Come see.

By each hand they tugged me along, to view anew an ancient wonder of the builder's art which, in every age, fascinates the child's heart.... It seems.

There it was, silhouetted above their view, but within mine, anchored in the crotch of a gnarled cherry bush amid obtrusive black ulcers on the branches... A nest.

A toddler on each arm and toddlers' arms around my neck, we looked down into what by height and crafted size I judged to be the nestling site of long-gone Warbler kith... I smiled.

"It's got Christmas tree stuff," said David with a downward-pointing finger. "It's shiny black and pink-and-blue like your shirt, Grandpa, only smaller, much smaller..." I nodded.

How wise. How modern and fashionable to grassweave a home of teflon tinsel, snack bag snippets and Collie combings from the compost... So resourceful.

"It's so messy in there," observed an oh-so serious, wide-eyed Carolyn, her tiny hand mashing my cheek with roughshod innocence and presumptuous trust... I gloried.

"This was once a pillow of silky parachutes and underfeather down, a cradle-house for Mrs. Warbler's wrinkled babies till they feathered out and learned to fly..." We marvelled.

"Can we take it back home?" they pled in one twins' voice. I winced. "Can we show it to mom?" I brightened. "Let's bring her out here!" echoed an enthused duet... They understood.

Dreams Can Be the Essence of a Rebirth

by Mary Campbell

Just recently, I had an unusual dream. I saw a woman dressed in a brown flowing robe, standing at the edge of a river. I stood on a rock overlooking the clean clear flow. My eyes followed the woman below. She had a newborn baby in her arms still covered with blood. She held it in a curled, fetal position with its face looking at the ground. Then she placed it face down in the water. It looked like it was going to live because it seemed to know how to turn its head and breathe. I saw many other babies floating by, but they looked dead.

I looked at the woman as she turned away from the river. She seemed to be in a robot-like trance. We stared at each other and then I woke up.

When I became more alert from my dreamy sleep, I was mentally repeating the word "genocide". I couldn't get the dream out of my mind.

I began to wonder if there was a similar account in the Bible. Was there any time when babies had to be put in a river? I soon found my answer. In Exodus, I read that the king of Egypt had ordered all newborn Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the Nile to stop the Israelites from multiplying. I realized that the scene of dead babies floating in the river actually took place at the time that Moses was born.

I began to wonder what God wanted me to learn from my dream. I began to ask Him to help me understand it. Soon the pieces of the puzzle started to come together. I suddenly realized that I was like the newborn baby. I was just beginning to discover the deep truths about my Saviour, my friend. I understood that He was putting me in the river and that I would have life because He had shown me how to breathe.

I realized how much God has given me: feelings, dreams and gifts from the Holy Spirit. I knew how to survive now by using them. I had suffered from several abusive people. I no longer allowed myself to be victimized. I was beginning to have my own thoughts and feelings instead of letting others control them. I was becoming eager to search for the truth in God's Word and to live in truth.

As a result, I was expressing my feelings openly and honestly to all who knew me. I was developing into a new person. I was writing articles that were being published. I was finally trusting in God more than people. I was learning that He would never abuse me or abandon me. God was my river of life just as the Nile was the life blood of Egypt. No one else could take His place. I was floating on His living water and turning my head up so that I could breathe and live!

The other babies were parts of my life that had died. I had been close to my father but he had died suddenly many years ago. I clung to my mother for many years but she had developed memory loss. I could no longer relate to her as a close friend.

The dead babies also represented my dreams that had been destroyed. I had a dream of having a career in teaching but I found out that it wasn't the right job for me. Then my hopes centred on being successful in the business world but due to physical and health disabilities, I realized that I would never be able to cope with the pressures that were demanded of me. I had a dream of having a family, that had to end because of many problems in my younger years. I realized that a lot of my dreams would never come true. They had to die like the babies in the river.

The word genocide meant something important too. The word is ugly; it is satanic in nature. I realized that if I was going to be a new person walking a truthful path with God, then Satan was going to try to destroy me as one of God's family. But I also remembered that the baby was covered in blood. I thought of the blood of the Lamb. I realized that I am covered in Jesus' blood. He is my protector, my saviour against the roaring threats of the lion called Satan.

A peace deeper than any ocean overwhelmed me as I finished assembling the pieces. I understood much more about how God is so wonderfully creative that He gave me such a remarkable dream. He let me enjoy working on the mystery while His Holy Spirit gently directed me. He helped me find the truths that gave me comfort, courage and hope. I was ready to press on with my "newborn" insights, ideas and dreams. In essence, I was being reborn!

- Mary Campbell is a freelance writer living in Scarborough, Ontario with her husband Barry and new dog, Spunky.

* * *

Words

Words
are the atoms of thoughts.
Thoughts are the atoms of deeds
Deeds
are the atoms of creation.
Creation
is the Hand of God
Writing the history
of the Universe.

Lini R. Grol

- With permission from: The Herald; Circuit; Christian Courier.

Forward In Faith

Welcome to this brand new year of 1995 -- a year when we can achieve greater things than ever before. A year when our Area Educational Consultants will become Regional Staff members and we will have even closer ties between synods and synodicals, between presbyteries and presbyterials. A year when we begin to realize some of the dreams visualized when our five-year plan was drafted. A year of many challenges and many opportunities. A year when our income will justify the hopes that we had when we looked at our estimates.

Each group will now have received a copy of the booklet "Threatened with Resurrection - Stand up! Speak out! Be counted!" which is the five year plan adopted by delegates at the 1994 annual Council meeting. One task assigned to the Treasurer was to prepare a package of suggestions re methods to increase givings. During the past year in this column we have discussed legacies, special presentations of life and honorary membership; information was issued on projects on which we could focus; a personal goal was presented and a challenge was issued by the British Columbia Synodical to increase the number of subscriptions to the Glad Tidings. The main emphasis however remains on the stewardship of all people as they review what is being done and what is required.

Recently I have been privileged to attend "talent night" at some local small churches and these have been extremely well received and resulted in some income for the host group. There are many gifted people in our communities who are willing to share their talents.

At a recent Council Executive meeting, an objective for 1995 of $1,153,290 was accepted based on mission education expenses equal to the 1994 estimate of $332,048, field staff (Area Educational Consultants) of $390,000, administration expenses of $217,042, and grants of $214,200. Included in the administration expenses are two salaries, Council expenses, annual reports and implementation of the five year plan in addition to the normal housekeeping expenses of postage, supplies, office maintenance, etc. Administration is the catch-all for expenses not covered under the other headings. The proposed 1995 grant to the Life and Mission Agency of the church is $200,000 -- a reduction from 1994, recognizing that once again our capital will be required to make up the 1994 requirements and the amount taken from capital may be more than $200,000. (Our 1994 allotment was $250,000 and was not given until nearly year end.)

The WMS (WD) is committed to spreading the good news, or "Glad Tidings", of a loving God. In Appendix 1 to the five-year plan, we note that our strengths are prayer, study, service and fellowship providing many opportunities for members. As St. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 "Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures". We are entering a brand new year and enthusiastically we go forward in faith proclaiming God's love that we have known from infancy.

Marian Weldon, Treasurer

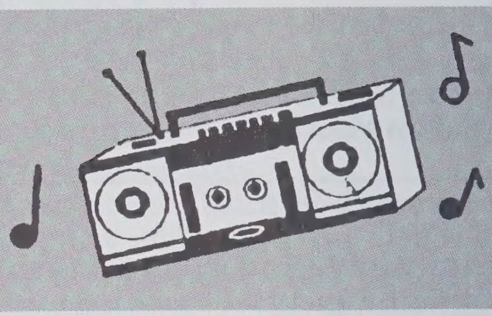
ESTIMATES 1995

Estimates for:	1994	1995	% of Total Estimates
Administration & Continuing Education: Council Executive meetings and Annual Council meeting, salaries of one executive and one support staff and office expenses including all telephone, postage and printing ... Increase includes the cost of implementing the Five Year Plan.	$208,352	$217,042	18.8
Mission Education: salaries for three executive and three support staff, resources for Adult, Youth and Children, Glad Tidings and the Book Room expenses...	$345,548	$332,048	28.9
Field Staff: Seven stipends, allowances, and travel grants will be paid through the payroll services of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.	$390,692	$390,000	33.8
Grants: interchurch groups, Christian literature worldwide...	$14,200	$14,200	1.2
Life & Mission Agency	$250,000	$200,000	17.3
TOTAL ESTIMATES	$1,195,292	1,153,290	100%

Suggested Synodical Objectives for 1995
(remains the same as last year)

British Columbia	$71,700	
Alberta	63,000	
Saskatchewan	26,100	
Manitoba & N.W. ON	36,800	
Hamilton & London	373,500	
Toronto & Kingston	333,000	
Quebec & Eastern ON	140,400	
	1,044,500	(90.6%)
From legacies, gifts, interest & capital	$108,790	(9.4%)
TOTAL ESTIMATES	$1,153,290	

CELEBRATING YOUTH



Kids Today!

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. Ecclesiastes 12:1

Kids today, can you believe them? They have no respect for anything or anyone any more. I've often heard these words before and ironically, I have thought them myself sometimes. In many cases, it is true. We're in a society that renounces authority by saying, 'it's your right to make any choice you want'. I would like to introduce to you a group of 'kids', who are far from perfect, but are trying hard to remember their Creator in these their younger days and trying even harder to do better than that!

They are the PYPS (Presbyterian Young People's Society) and they are a group of 'kids' in the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario that have been changed by our Lord Jesus Christ. There are three different levels of the PYPS: the local PYPS, the Presbytery PYPS and the Synod PYPS. I would like to share with you some of the things that have been happening in each of these areas in our Synod as young people have been remembering their wonderful Creator.

On a local level, we are talking about individual youth groups at individual churches. In just the Ontario part of the Synod, there have been four new youth groups started up in the past couple of years. These join the many, many groups already functioning. This is an exciting thing to have happening because 'kids today' need fellowship with one another and more importantly need fellowship with our Saviour. A youth group is a perfect place for just this.

On Presbytery level, we are talking about events that join groups from the same general area all together. These events have been particularly effective in the Ottawa and Cornwall areas, where joint youth services/rallies are being held on a regular basis at different churches there. My experience in these events has been exciting. This is why. It is exciting to see young Christians come together for the purpose of worshipping our Lord. It is exciting to see the encouragement that is received by these 'kids' when they see that there are other Christians their age that are committed to following Jesus Christ.

It is exciting to see the spiritual growth that has taken place in the lives of young people partly as a result of these Presbytery events. It is exciting to see what God does when people pray earnestly and constantly for these events. And seeing unity happen is exciting. Renfrew, Cardinal, St. Paul's Ottawa, St. Andrew's Ottawa, Manotick, Cornwall, the Synod PYPS and many other groups have tried these Presbytery wide events and have found them to be effective in helping 'kids today' remember and grow in relationship with their Creator.

On a Synod level, we are talking about the corporate body of all 'kids' in this Synod. The coordinating body that organizes events for this group is the executive of the PYPS of Synod. Three weekends are held each year as well as roughly one day event each month. These retreats have proved to be just amazing times of learning and bonding within the young people that attend. The average number of people at these events has been 60, and the furtherance of the kingdom has been, as in all cases, immeasurable. "God is awesome" and "Super weekend" have been some of the responses of those attending these retreats.

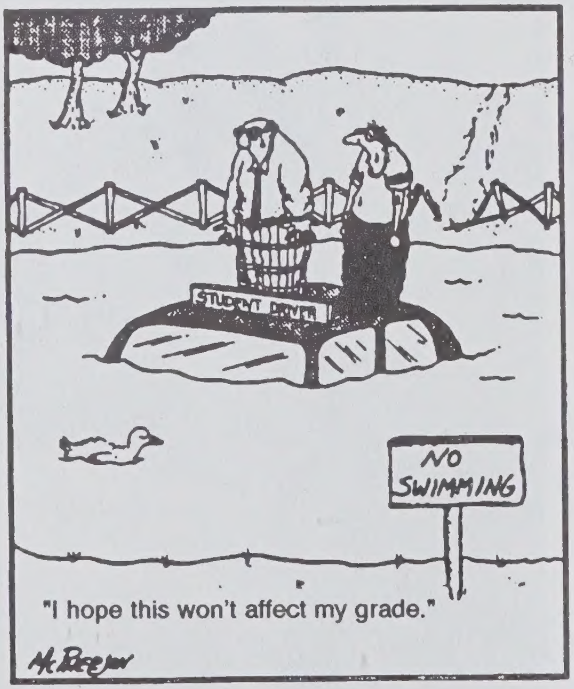
In general, there is very real revival happening within the Church today. I believe that this renewal is taking place in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The 'kids' in these churches need to be fed spiritual food (as do we all), and the various networks that have been set up in this Synod have furthered this end greatly. There still is, I believe, a need for a wake up call in the Presbyterian Church in regards to youth. I realized it when I began attending a new church (not Presbyterian) during my University career. As we were leaving the first Sunday, the pastor said, "We want you." As Presbyterians, do we *want* 'kids today' in our churches. If not, why not? If yes, what are we doing about it?!

God is doing exciting things within the youth sector of our Church in the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario. Please continue to pray for those young people in your churches as they decide what choices to make in their lives. May God unite us all, young and old, and show us what it is to be Christians here and now. Amen.

Greg Davidson

- Greg is Past President, PYPS, Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

Items *for, about,* and *by* youth for the *Celebrating Youth* pages. With our new expanded issues, we hope to devote two pages to youth events, activities and so on. We need YOU to send items in.



"I hope this won't affect my grade."

Source: *High School Isn't Easy* by John McPherson (Andrews and McMeel, 1993). Published in cooperation with Zondervan Publishing House
Available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

Prayer...

Following are some articles, poems, etc. to enrich your prayer life.

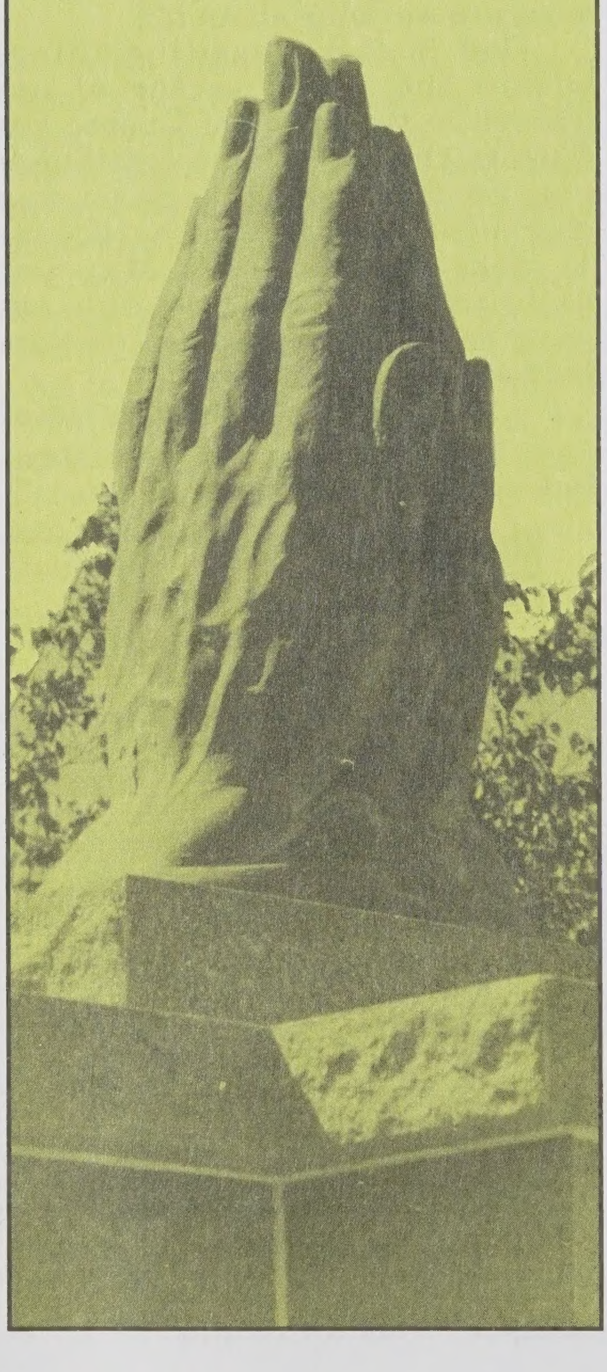


Photo: Alma Barkman

Open Doors

A Prayer for Openness to the Lord in Our Daily Lives

by Edward P. Mason

Jesus said: "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved." RSV

Beloved Lord God, we come before You with heavy and repentant hearts, knowing that we are still sinners in so many ways. Frequently it is in not doing what we should, that we fail You. Often we fail to include You in our actions and thoughts, so that Your love, hopes, and desires for us are ignored. Too often, we fail to heed Your call to us and just go our own ways. We let weariness, trivial distractions, personal desires and even laziness interfere with our relationship to You. Beloved Lord, we are heavy at heart and earnestly ask Your forgiveness.

O, Lord our God, we come before You, seeking Your help. As we try to follow our Saviour and Redeemer, we ask that You:

"Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus."*

Open our hearts, Lord, that we might be cleansed of anything that is of the Evil One, so that they may beat in Christ-love and adoration throughout our daily lives and relationships.

Open our darkness, Lord, with Your glorious Light, that our ways would become Your blessed Ways, that the light of Jesus would shine through us as we serve You in obedience and bathed in Your Love.

Open our Lips, Lord, that they would show forth Your praise and that the name of Jesus be known as the Name above all names, Your beloved Son, Savior and Eternal Hope for humankind.

Open our lives, Lord, to the deep, abiding spiritual realization that You have created each one of us. You know each of us by name. You have given us freedom of choice to seek Your wonderful plan for a fulfilling and rewarding life here on earth. Deepen our realization that You have honoured us in making us brothers and sisters of Your precious Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Open the doors of the temple of the Holy Spirit, our beings, Lord, so that we may abandon ourselves to Your Holy Will, trust wholly in You alone, commit ourselves to one another in Christ's love, and with boldness and confidence, proclaim Christ the Savior of the world.

O, Lord God, open us again to Your glorious Presence, to be Yours in spirit, mind, soul and body for evermore.

In Jesus' precious name we ask these things. Amen.

*p 390 *Open Our Eyes* by Bob Cull, Scripture in Song Book II, ©Maranatha Music

Prayer

Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers,
but to be fearless in facing them.

Let us not beg for the stilling of pain,
but for the heart to conquer it.

Let us not look for allies in life's battlefield,
but to our own strength.

Let us not crave in anxious fear to be saved, but hope for the patience to win freedom.

Grant that we may not be cowards, O Lord, feeling your mercy in our success alone; but let us find the grasp of your hand in our failures.

Rabindranath Tagore
- CCA News

A Prayer Chain

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. **Matthew 8:20**

It is on this promise that we have built the prayer chain in our church for we know that it is a powerful, positive way to support our minister and congregation and the outside community.

But what is a prayer chain you ask? At the request of our minister the Rev. Noel Gordon of Knox Church, Oshawa, seven of the congregation volunteered to be a part of a group that would meet together several times a year and at the same time each would pray separately at home for any concerns brought to their attention, firmly holding fast to Matthew 21:22, *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

The captain of the chain usually receives the request for prayer and he in turn passes the request on to the first "link" with directions concerning what to pray for (e.g. healing, comfort, strength etc.) and the duration of time members are to pray for this specific concern. The first person so alerted passes the information immediately to the second and so on until the message is returned to the captain and he then becomes aware that seven of the chain members are offering up prayers for the one request.

Each person in the chain is committed to seeking God's will for a specific cause or reason. In so doing each member is linked to the other members of the chain creating a unity of belief. Matthew 18:19, *That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

We have found new friendships blooming as the members trust and enjoy one another. The chain is only as strong as each link so it is necessary to be diligent and true to the other members of the group.

Requests are confidential and known only to the group members and the minister. Requests have come in for illness, family difficulties, healing, comfort and strength.

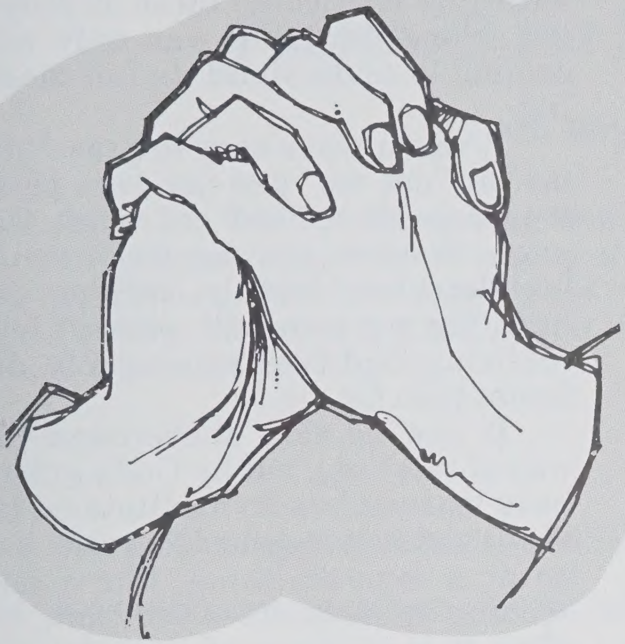
We at Knox have been grateful to have this outreach to our people and even to others across the province. Many have reported back about the strength, comfort and healing they have received.

We are now prayerfully hopeful that our group will grow in numbers as our congregation comes to fully understand the benefits that flow from this ministry.

We will be happy to share with any group or church that is desirous of forming its own chain. Requests for help may be directed to John Weir or myself at Knox Presbyterian Church, 147 Simcoe Street N., Oshawa, Ontario L1G 4S6 and we will gladly give our prayer and support to your endeavour.

Jessie G. Greig,
Elder & Member of WMS
John Weir,
Elder & Prayer Chain Captain

- Jessie Greig was the first woman to be ordained as an elder in Knox. Oshawa.



I needed a time and place where I could come every day, without the noise and confusion of the outside world breaking in.

What Prayer Taught Me

by Barbara Mitchell

I'm not exactly sure when it was I realized my prayer life had fallen short of what it ought to be. Maybe it was when I was trying desperately to recall just what it was that I wanted to bring to the Lord's attention. Then again, it could be that moment when my mind simply refused to cooperate and I couldn't seem to focus my thoughts on anything at all. Whichever it was, both served as good reminders of just how far I had let my prayer life stray. I was determined to set things right between myself and God and make a fresh commitment.

Gazing around our scrambled living room, I wondered briefly what I could alter within these four walls to make my surroundings more conducive to prayer.

I recognized immediately that my favorite albums would have to go. Although the music seemed helpful in stimulating a contemplative mood at times, it simply didn't seem appropriate now. For me, silence was the key.

I had always been under the impression that prayer was something that could be done anywhere, at any time, and indeed, it can. But I had come to a point in my life where I realized I needed a time and place where I could come every day, without the noise and confusion of the outside world breaking in. In a manner of speaking, I needed to absorb God.

In my helplessness, I allowed myself to yield completely. I emptied my mind of its endless myriad of spinning questions and focused my thoughts on God. I found myself, for the first time, actually relaxing in His presence.

Nothing was vying for my attention. I had no commitments to rush off to. God demanded neither questions nor words, so I offered none. I concentrated on His mighty and loving character, and allowed myself to feel His presence. I felt God was truly with me. I was thankful for the wonderful things I had been given - a free country that allowed me to worship without fear of persecution, God's loving control in my life, and my immense gratitude that because He loved me so much He offered His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins. I thanked Him for who He was.

Once I had recognized God as the centre of my life and given Him

It was always easy to pray "give me" or "use me" and not even pause long enough to find out what God might want to use me for.

the reverence and respect He deserved, I was able to apply myself to the task of what to pray about. I believed prayer should begin within one's self, but that it should never end there.

So how does one become less self-centred? What was I to pray for?

Again God's Spirit gave me direction. If I asked for blessings upon my family, shouldn't I also pray for the peace and protection of those who are homeless? If I prayed for the situation to be set right between myself and a friend, shouldn't I also seek to ease the burden of hate for my neighbour?

Slowly I became aware of those around me, and as I prayed for them, I found myself wanting to actively help them.

When I prayed that God might ease the burden of the lonely in our church, I also found the courage to reach out and befriend them myself. As I prayed for God's direction within our struggling women's group, I also found myself offering to let my name stand for consideration for a leadership position. I saw that as I chose to live in harmony with Christ, I was also called to live in a loving relationship with others. As I learned to love those around me, I discovered a spontaneous need to pray for them.

I then learned to pray not "my will" but "thy will". I had struggled with this particular facet of prayer for a long time and was only now coming to understand its full meaning.

It was always easy to pray "give me" or "use me" and not even pause long enough to find out what God might want to use me for. I would blunder along blindly, seeking and fulfilling my own will without ever realizing God had an entirely different plan for me.

It was not easy to overcome this way of thinking, but by God's grace I have learned how to meditate on the Word and to listen for His voice. It is never a concrete thing, like a loud echoing in the midst of the room, but often it is a sense of deep burden which I am sure is placed in my heart to make me more aware of particular situations around me.

It is still a struggle for me, but through diligence and, I admit, much discipline, my prayer life has become an important extension of my Christian walk.

I know now that prayer is not always asking. Sometimes it is just a time to kneel in God's presence and reflect on His great glory. Sometimes it requires no words and serves as a time of spiritual uplifting and renewal. More often than not, it is seeking God for who he is.

I am learning not only how to speak to God, but how to listen, as well.

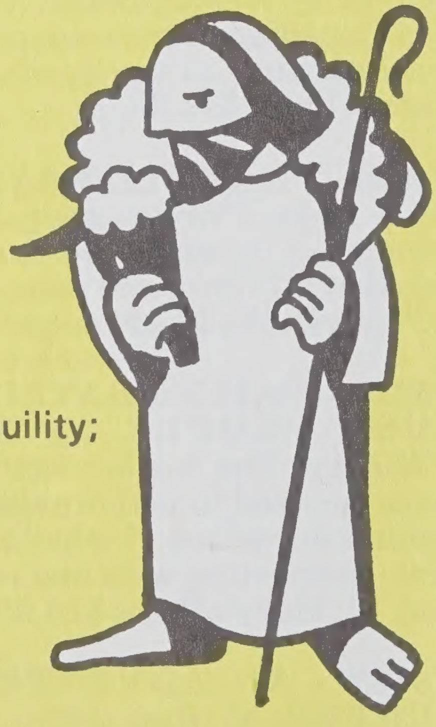
By God's grace I have learned how to meditate on the Word and to listen for His voice.

Psalm 23 for Busy People

Toki Miyashina

Psalm 23, 'The Lord is my shepherd', has probably been set to music and paraphrased more than any other part of the Bible. This modern version from Japan gives it a new impact for twentieth-century readers–especially in the city. Psalm 23, in its many versions, is a good psalm to pray.

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush;
God makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
God provides me with images of stillness,
which restore my serenity.
He leads me in the way of efficiency,
through calmness of mind;
and his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things
to accomplish each day
I will not fret, for his presence is here.
God's timelessness, his all-importance
will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal
in the midst of activity,
by anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility;
my cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be
the fruits of my hours
and I shall walk in the pace of my Lord,
and dwell in God's house for ever.



RESOURCES ON PRAYER

C0090 - NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP *by Debbie Trafton O'Neal.* Action prayers, poems and songs for bedtime. Contains detailed instructions for acting out simple finger rhymes and music for prayerful lullabies. Augsburg $7.50

Y2198 - INTERMISSION - Breaking Away With God *by James C. Schaap.* 108 one-page devotional readings which include a suggested Bible story to read and a brief prayer. CRC Publications $16.25

Y3959 - A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PRAYER *by Richard J. Beckman.* Youth and adults will appreciate this book about the meaning, necessity, language and practice of prayer. Augsburg $10.95

G5358 - LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY - A New Look at the Lord's Prayer *by Arthur Boers.* This book by a Canadian Mennonite pastor is a detailed study of the Lord's Prayer. Herald Press $12.95

G4662 - PRAY ALL WAYS *by Edward Hays.* Prayer, says Hays, is something in which we can be engaged at all times and places. Forest of Peace Books $12.95

G5213 - DAILY PRAYERS FOR BUSY PEOPLE *by William O'Malley.* The busier we are, the more we need to withdraw awhile to remind ourselves of what is important - connecting with and resting in God. St. Mary's Press $10.95

G5137 - AN ADVENTURE IN PRAYER *by Ben Johnson.* The reader is invited "to engage in an experiment for the next 30 days" - an experience in prayer. CTS PRESS $2.95

G5542 - PRAYER-WALKING - A Simple Path to Body-and-Soul Fitness *by Linus Mundy.* Prayerwalking is something that almost anyone can do and this small book offers great ideas to get us started. Abbey Press $7.25

G5042 - PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE FOR A FAITHFUL JOURNEY *by Elizabeth Caldwell and Earle Hilgert.* Nine lessons for group study with suggestions for leaders. Horizons for Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (USA) $4.50

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE WMS BOOK ROOM (see page 28 for ordering information.)

CENTREFOLD

We hope, each issue, to have a centrefold of 2-4 pages that can be used by local, presbyterial or synodical groups. You can help by letting us know if material is helpful AND by sending in ideas that you've tried.

Barbara Woodruff,
Progam Secretary

program...program...

Use with1994-95 mission study material:

Malawian Child

Went away this summer to a place that's called
"The Warm Heart of Africa"
Travelling around trying to understand
the people living in what used to be
Nyasaland
Looking to the countryside parched and dry
No rain for months, just clear blue sky
And what do I see?

I see Malawian Child smiling at me
Brown-eyed beauty, let me see.

No TV screens or VCR's
No cellular phones or fancy cars
The food that's eaten, each day the same
No variety, but no one complains
Each day is another day
Walking for water that is miles away
And what do I see?

I see Malawian Child smiling at me
Brown-eyed beauty, let me see.

Went away this summer to a place that's called
"The Warm Heart of Africa"
Travelling around trying to understand
the people living in what used to be
Nyasaland
Happy to live, happy to love
Each day giving praise to God above
And what do I see?

I see Malawian Child smiling at me
Brown-eyed beauty, let me see.

Singing and dancing
Laughing and playing
Running and jumping
Hey, whatcha saying?

Malawian Child
Malawian Child
Malawian Child, smiling at me.

Margaret Moncrieff

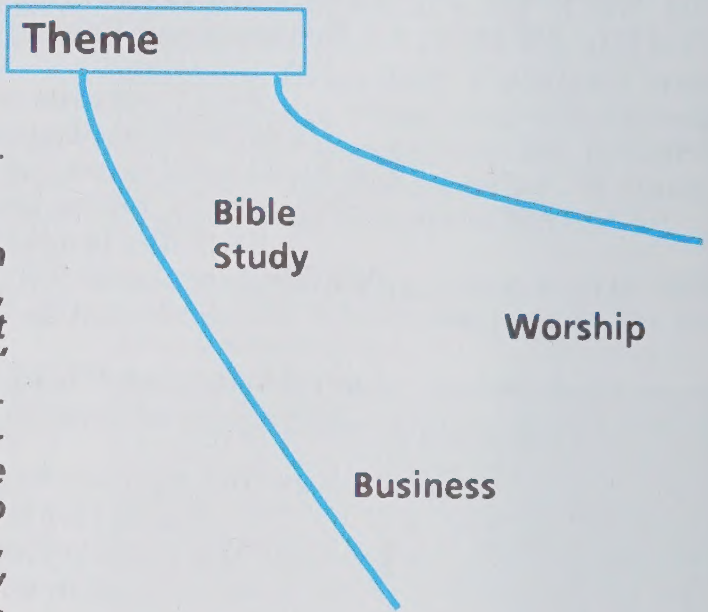
(- These are the words of a song written in 1992 following Margaret's Youth in Mission experience in Malawi.)

PLANNING A PROGRAM USING

The following idea would be most useful when planning for a synodical, presbyterial or area meeting or rally.

Elements of a Program (There are a variety of methods you can use.)

- **Theme (purpose, gives you direction). Your entire program can be built around the theme and may include the following:**
  - **Bible Study**
    - **Worship**
      - **Business**



Planning:

1. Choose a Scripture passage. For example: Luke 14:15-24

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is the one who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave. 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' " NRSV

2. Name all the themes that come from that passage.

Examples:
1. Everyone is welcome here
2. Jesus invites us, but we are too busy to notice
3. Who are the poor, crippled, blind and lame among us?

A SCRIPTURAL THEME

4. We are all busy; how do we find time for God?
5. (Add your own ideas)
6.
7.

3. Choose one of the above themes for your programme. e.g. Who are the poor, crippled, blind and lame among us?

4. Develop that theme.

a) What resources do you have for developing the theme? i.e. Material resources: Bible Study materials; Mission Study resources; Survey of church or community; Articles from Glad Tidings, Presbyterian Record, Mission Update, PWSDevelopments, Missionary Profiles; Audio-visual resources. People resources: Community Service agency speaker or workshop leader. Activities: could you dramatize or role play your theme and/or scripture; or rewrite the story using today's experiences, act it out or tell it, then discuss?

b) When you choose your resources, what flows best? Does worship open your topic, close it or fit in the midst of it?

c) How much participation do you want? Is this a 'sit and listen' meeting? Are there opportunities for discussion, for experiencing poverty or disabilities?

d) How long will each segment take? Are you timing it beforehand so you have a realistic idea of time? How long can your group sit before they need a break? (The mind can take in only what the seat or back can bear.)

e) Is it necessary to do business at this programme? Can some of it be done through handouts or at executive meetings? If you have guests try to keep business to a minimum. If new members are present, give some background to help them understand what you are talking about, but be efficient. Can you do the business at the end of the programme?

Resources Available:

- Book table at Presbyterial, Synodical or group meetings
- Minister's library
- Area resource staff
- Personal collections
- Church libraries
- Book Room, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7 (416-441-1111 ext 239/240)
- Resource Distribution Centre (same address as above ext. 332/333).

Dear Friends

The Buddings,
Box 126,
Kathmandu, Nepal
November, 1994

On our return here last May, it was an extremely hot night and there was no electric power. I had a stomach ailment and therefore needed quick and ready access to the bathroom. Since it was pitch dark and the surroundings unfamiliar, that was not easy.... The next day the power came on and although it remained quite hot, we had at least the comfort of electric fans and after we moved to our own house, an air-conditioned bedroom. My stomach also settled down.

Our present house is...accessible by a long stone stairway with 67 steps. In the rainy season these steps can be quite slippery. Nan fell one time and suffered several nasty bruises. She complained to the authorities but since maintenance is not a priority in Nepal nothing happened. Now the rains have stopped the stair is not quite so slippery any more....

I have a new appointment. My new title is Technical Advisor at the Butwal Technical Institute. I was uncomfortable with my former job because of the growing emphasis on big projects which, I felt, did not benefit the poor nor left sufficient room for adequate Christian witness. In my present position as consultant, I hope to be able to influence the selection process for new trainees so that there will be a greater opportunity for the poor to compete successfully. I teach an occasional class and spend most of my time writing new syllabi for the various trades.

At the end of our last term Nan already felt that the counterpart she trained to take her place in the guest house would be able to work without any further supervision or help. This was confirmed upon our return. Nan is now getting involved with the homeless squatters who live in wretched shacks at the edge of the town, ironically called Phul-Bari, field of flowers.

They live in rickety bamboo shacks open to the elements, they have no bedding, and no clothes for their children. Because they can't afford the few rupees for school supplies, the children cannot go to school. Like their parents, these children will be unable to acquire the skills necessary to become part of the industrial work force. From birth, they are condemned to a continuing hand-to-mouth existence from whatever they can earn in low paying menial jobs or by begging. Most of them will die young. In our settlement there are about 50 families. Nan tries to provide them with clothing, medicine, and hospital care when needed.

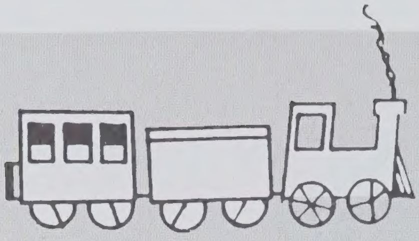
There is a relatively inexpensive way in which you can help. Used children's clothing and women's wear (except dresses), packed in a sturdy carton box can be sent by surface mail for about twenty or thirty dollars for a 20 KG box. Line the box with a plastic bag to prevent mildew and clearly label it as a free gift of used clothing of no value. Address it to Nan Budding, Post Office Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal.

We also need your prayers. Pray for us and for these desperately poor. Their plight is just one small crack in a terribly broken world.

With warm Christian greetings,
Hubert & Nan Budding

Slip Sliding Away

by David Webber



The trains didn't run yesterday. I wouldn't have noticed except Anne brought it to my attention. I had noticed the cause of the shut down though. TENT CATERPILLARS!! On the way up to Punchaw, as Linda, Chelsea and I were driving past the Quesnel area, we noticed that virtually every aspen tree was stripped of its usual lush spring foliage. The Western Forest Tent Caterpillar is only about an inch long but if you get enough of them an entire forest can have its foliage eaten. And, if you get enough of these seemingly innocuous little worms marching across a train track in their endless search for food, they can stop an entire train. Its a slippery and dangerous business trying to run a train up a grade greased with Tent Caterpillars. So, they shut the trains down yesterday.

It is hard to believe that a glorified worm about an inch long and weighing less than a gram can stop a train several hundred yards long weighing mega tons. Hard to believe...but true. On the way home from Punchaw I got to thinking and this natural truth turned my mind to spiritual truth.

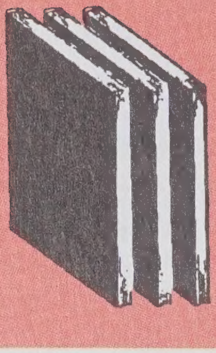
What is it about little things. They often seem to go unnoticed in my life. This seems particularly true concerning things that put the skids under my spiritual walk. Let me give you an example.

Since giving my life to Christ about 15 years ago it has been my desire to have a vibrant and consistent practice of contemplative prayer. It is my desire to have this as an integral part of my life because in my experience, it is a great blessing...perhaps the greatest blessing one can have in this life. And so, I have read all kinds of books on contemplative prayer. I took several courses in the spiritual disciplines, and have at times greatly enjoyed periods when it is my daily practice to spend at least a half hour waiting on the Lord in contemplative listening prayer. And then, along come the caterpillars.

For me they come in the form of racing busyness, creeping tiredness or sluggish laziness. Whatever they are, they serve to put the skids under my daily practice of blessing. Little things, like some esoteric bit of paperwork that I have convinced myself just can't wait, so I will miss one day's time of contemplation...or perhaps I have been out late one night so I decide to not get up the half hour early for my prayer time. Before long one little thing has become two and then three; and one day has become two and then a week and then a month. Finally, I realize the prayer train has spun out completely.

I don't know about your discipleship but I have found in mine that it's the little things that slip up on me unnoticed and before long I am slip-sliding away. I guess that is why Jesus warns us to: "Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38). Jesus must have known about the tent caterpillars in my life. What about yours?

- Cariboo Presbyterian Church, British Columbia *Newsletter* Summer 1994



BOOKS

Order from:
The WMS Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
441-1111. Ext. 239/240.
Hours: Mon-Fri-8:45-4:00

Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and GST will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation.

THE KINGDOM EQUATION - A Fresh Look at the Parables of Jesus *by John Timmer, CRC Publications 1990. Price $13.35* and **THE KINGDOM EQUATION - Leader's Guide** *by Andy De Jong. CRC Publications 1990. Price $13.35.*

This resource has been enthusiastically recommended by the WMS group of Knox Presbyterian Church, Red Deer, Alberta.

In the church there is a recognition of the effectiveness of story and storytelling and so we welcome this opportunity to take "a fresh look" at the stories Jesus told. One chapter deals with Jesus himself as parable.

Timmer discusses and critiques the way parables have been interpreted and urges an interpretation of parable as metaphor. "A parable paints a picture of God's kingdom. It is a 'kingdom equation,' " says the author - equating something known and familiar with the surprising kingdom of God. These stories challenge and upturn our typical human responses.

This Bible study resource for adults, produced by the Christian Reformed Church, is a 100-page text book in 12 chapters. Beautiful full-colour illustrations accompany each chapter.

The Leader's Guide gives additional background information and a wealth of ideas and questions for discussion. Selection and adaptation to your own group is encouraged. The opening two sessions introduce the course. It would work well to use sections of Chapter 2 of *Living Faith, A Statement of Christian Belief,* in place of the Christian Reformed statement mentioned in Session Two. Suggested agendas for each session are given which include worship resources.

Dorothy Ruddell

GRANDPARENTS ARE FOREVER *by Carolyn Gutowski. Published by Paulist Press, 1994. Price $14.95.*

Attractively decorated with a lace tablecloth and a locket, showing a family photograph, this book is instructive for those who wish to enhance their ability to grandparent.

It happened that I read this book while helping with a new granddaughter. My son-in-law, a United Church minister, shared my interest in this book.

The author ties the generations together with many examples of how grandparents can influence the lives of their children and grandchildren. Some of the examples are from those who have had very important positions in life, such as Barbara Bush. Ways to influence the lives of grandchildren and to pass on information are suggested. There is helpful repetition in the various chapters.

This is the year of the family.

"We know that what is understood as family" is changing. There are traditional families, but often both parents are working. There is a growing number of single parent families. Grandparents fulfil the roles of caregivers, nurturers, mentors, family historians and storytellers, models of aging, and sages.

Grandparents are providers of those extras for which busy parents might not find time or have the resources to do. Both grandchildren and grandparents are breaking out of traditional expectations. The range of interests and skills is broad. For example, a grandson may want to learn to cook and bake; a granddaughter may want to learn to do woodworking. As well, grandfather may be the cook; grandmother, the woodworker. Grandmothers or grandfathers could be business people, professional people, computer users, mechanics, gardeners, knitters or whatever. The possibilities are multiple.

The younger generation are helped to understand the family background through stories told by grandparents and through genealogical information gathered by grandparents.

These days grandparents have also become active learners. They are good models for their grandchildren as they take courses for their personal growth.

There are associations mentioned to which grandparents can belong in order to give assistance in bridging the generation gap to children who do not have any grandparents.

Throughout the book, the author also ties in the spiritual values which need to be passed on to the next generation.

Grandparents are Forever is recommended reading.

Audrey Nettleton

Notice

New price -
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Gold filled - $76.50 (includes postage/handling)
Price increase effective January 1, 1995
Send orders to:
Life Membership Department,
Women's Missionary Society,
50 Wynford Drive,
North York, Ontario M3C 1J7

Omission:

In the May 1994 Glad Tidings the author's name was omitted from the "Litany for Women" on pp 4, 5. Apologies to Rev. Terry Hastings, Dayspring Church, London, Ontario (formerly St. Mark's, North York) who wrote this piece.
Editor

ONTARIO PRESBYTERIAN CHORUS

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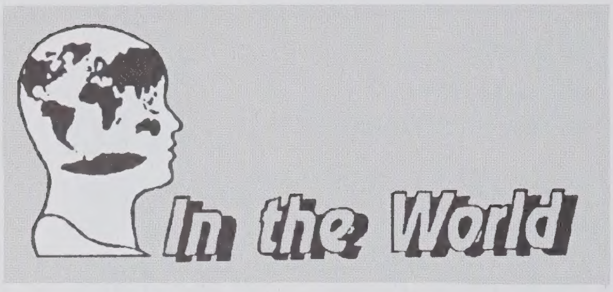


CALL TO LAY DOWN ARMS

Geneva, 9 September (ENI) - A leading official in Northern Ireland's largest Protestant church has expressed cautious optimism about prospects for peace, but warned against "euphoria" since a peaceful solution for Northern Ireland could take a long time to implement.

Sam Hutchinson, clerk of the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), said from Belfast that while it would be "rash" to make predictions, it was obvious that Protestant paramilitary groups were considering a cease-fire.

"They [the paramilitaries] have been relatively quiet for a few days in terms of paramilitary activity," Hutchinson said. "They are taking the steps they would be taking if a cease-fire were to come." He urged the loyalist paramilitaries to call a cease-fire.

The Irish Republican Army called a cease-fire on 31 August, described by Robin Eames, primate of the (Anglican) Church of Ireland and Archbishop of Armagh as "a sign of hope for people who, for many years, have longed and prayed for peace". He said that it was his prayer "that their hopes will not be dashed". The announcement, he said, could mark the "beginning of the end of fear and sorrow caused by violence".

Hutchinson said that it was not up to churches "to say whether there should be a new Northern Ireland assembly" or to state other political requirements. "The role of the churches is to create the conditions so the politicians can operate [to reach a political solution to the Northern Ireland conflict]. It's up to us [the churches] to create calm and trust," he said.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. It withdrew from membership of the World Council of Churches in 1980. [ENI]

MOZAMBIQUE ELECTIONS 'FREE AND FAIR'

Maputo, 1 November (ENI) - Elections held in Mozambique at the end of October, the first multi-party elections since the country won independence in 1975, were "free, fair and credible", according to an international team of church observers in Mozambique, who urged "all political forces" to accept the results of the elections as the verdict of the people.

A delegation of 85 Christians from different parts of the world took part in the election monitoring process, which was coordinated by the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM) and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Religious groups have played a crucial part in Mozambique's difficult path to peace and democracy. A Roman Catholic lay organisation, Sant'Egidio, played a major part in coordinating the 1992 peace accord for Mozambique. - Mariam Kundu

A news report by Lourenco Jossias, journalist and associate editor of the Mozambican paper Savana, states, "On November 19, Mozambique's National Election Commission (CNE) declared that the winner of the Presidential election was Joaquin Chissano, incumbent President and leader of FRELIMO. The CNE is currently preparing the transfer of powers to the new 250-seat Parliament, consisting of 129 FRELIMO representatives, 112 RENAMO representatives and nine representatives of the Democratic Union. According to electoral law, the President of the Republic and the new Parliament must take power within fifteen days from the date on which election results are announced.

"The CNE intended to give the final election results on Thursday, November 17, and thousands of people gathered in the convention hall to witness the ceremony that day. However, the organization became bogged down in a series of meetings and failed to complete the final reports and minutes in time. Results were finally announced on November 19, in a ceremony attended by Mozambique's high-level diplomats, political candidates, and the national and foreign press.

"The representative of the UN Secretary General, Aldo Ajello, confirmed that the electoral process had been fair and free, and Chissano, the winning candidate, acknowledged that the country must confer appropriate and deserved status on the candidate who came in second.

"Chissano has begun consultations to form his new government, which he says will be composed of 'competent and capable' people, regardless of their party affiliation. He will soon be meeting Afonso Dhlakama, who is currently busy preparing his party's new MPs for their task.

"Two names are being mentioned in Maputo political circles for the job of Prime Minister: Pascoal Mocumbi, doctor and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Armando Guebuza, experienced politician, chief negotiator of the Rome Treaty with RENAMO, and former Minister of Transportation and Communications."

- The production of this news report was made possible by the financial assistance of the NGO Division of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

GAOL TERM CANCELLED FOR PRESBYTERIAN

Taipei, Taiwan, 6 September (ENI) - The Supreme Court of Taiwan has ruled that the general secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and three other defendants are not required to serve prison sentences for campaigning for a public boycott of a prominent Taipei newspaper.

The court found that the four defendants, including C.S. Yang, pastor and general secretary of the PCT, were not guilty of slandering the United Daily, one of Taiwan's leading newspapers. The four had previously been found guilty of the charge by another court. Yang and two other defendants had been sentenced to 50 days in prison. The fourth defendant, a law professor, had been sentenced to a gaol term of five months.

The PCT has a long history of speaking out in a country where civil rights and free speech have often been suppressed by the Taipei government, especially on the question of the relationship with mainland China. The PCT believes that Taiwan should declare itself a sovereign nation, and abandon its claim to the Chinese mainland.

- Vivian Su

WOMAN APPOINTED SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH LEADER

Geneva, 11 October (ENI) - Brigalia Ntombemhlophe Bam, deputy general secretary of the South African Council of Churches since 1988, has been appointed general secretary of the South African Council of Churches to succeed Frank Chikane, who has led the council since 1987.

Bam's appointment, which takes immediate effect, was taken by a unanimous decision of the SACC's general purposes committee, meeting yesterday.

Chikane, general secretary since July 1987, announced his intention to resign at the SACC national conference in July this year.

Bam, aged 61, who is also president of the Women's Development Foundation in South Africa, is a former staff member of the World Council of Churches, where she was responsible for women's issues, and has been human rights coordinator for the world YWCA, and Africa regional secretary for the International Union for Food and Allied Workers.

At the time she joined the staff of the World Council of Churches, Bam's passport had been withdrawn by the South African authorities and she was under surveillance by the security police. High-level negotiations, lasting over a year, were needed by WCC leaders to secure the return of her passport, before she could travel to WCC headquarters in Geneva in September 1967.

A statement by the SACC said that "members of the council and all its supporters will welcome the appointment with great joy".

* *

CANADA MINISTRIES

Stewart Folster and Rev. **Henry Hildebrandt**, both sponsored by *Presbyterians Sharing...*, combined forces to organize a tent worship meeting in the **Birdtail Reserve**. Response to the meeting was very positive, and has encouraged some members of the community to discuss conducting a weekly worship service.

Through Presbyterian Sharing... we help the work of Rev. **David Lefneski** and the steadily-growing ministry at **L'Eglise Presbyterienne St. Luc, Montreal**. David reaches out to the people of his community, just as we reach out with our support through Presbyterians Sharing....

A Korean woman now lives in Canada with her son and his family, but they are very busy running a store. In time, her health deteriorates and she enters a nursing home. No one there speaks Korean and the food tastes strange. Then Rev. **Myung Chun Kim** comes to visit, bringing some spicy, fragrant Korean food and some people to speak – and sing – Korean. This is part of our ministry through Presbyterians Sharing.... **Presbytery of West Toronto.**

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Re: Pneumonia Vests:

Thousands of vests have come in from across Canada from various groups and individuals since this project has been introduced. *International Ministries* wishes to extend its appreciation to all who have contributed either by knitting the vests and/or for financial support for the cost of shipping them. A special

- Has Margaret Moors set a record with her knitting?

thanks to Margaret Moors for her hours of knitting and commitment to this project. Margaret, who is 87 years old, has knitted 103 vests for Malawi - a record as far as we know, for an individual person knitting the vests! Margaret attends Chalmers Presbyterian Church in Calgary when she is able.

Grace Mughogho, Acting Matron, Church of Central Africa Hospital in Ekwendeni has sent words of gratitude on behalf of the hospital for the gift of vests. She reports that all the items are very useful and very much needed. They have been able to give things to the patients when they are discharged from the hospital as they have so little at home, especially the children.

International Ministries would also like to express its appreciation to Mrs. Peggy Moore from Kingston, Ontario. Peggy no longer knits but was very creative in making 20 adorable teddy bears to send overseas. I'm sure the teddys will be cherished by the children who receive them.

- Marjorie Ross, Associate Secretary for International Ministries and Richard Fee, Adjunct Staff for Africa & Presbyterian World Service & Development Director, sitting in the piles of vests received.

- Twenty teddy bears travel overseas.

Rev. **Robert Faris** has resigned from his overseas posting in Mozambique where he has served for six and a half years. Bob writes in his letter of resignation to International Ministries: "It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter. This experience, together with my six months of Portuguese language study in Brazil gave me a good preparation for my work within the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique. I cannot say that life and work has always been easy here; far from it. However, through this experience I have deepened my understanding of life in the body of Christ, of Christian faith, of mission and indeed, of my own self. I could not ask for more and I thank God for this opportunity for ministry. Over the years, I have been well supported by staff first in the Board of World Mission and later in International Ministries".

Bob has accepted a position as Coordinator of Outreach and Communication at the Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries, effective January 1/95.

- Robert Faris

CONGRESS FOR WOMEN

TRAVELLING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Have you ever thought of how great it could be to have a special day away from work, family obligations and other responsibilities? Picture a day of stimulating workshops, dynamic speakers, discussions, and exchanges of ideas with other women from varied backgrounds and experience.

Two hundred women took advantage of just such an occasion at the "Journey Together" women's congress on February 26, 1994. With child care and lunch provided, the congress got off to a good start. The opening worship was led by a team of young women students from the Toronto Bible College. They gave inspiration for the day with their skill as musicians and the variety of their hymns. The Rev. Diane Strickland followed with the keynote address "Sharing Your Life with God". Eleven workshops filled the balance of the day with topics ranging from "Christian Parenting: Raising Children in the Real World" to "Taking Care of Ourselves - Burn-out".

Judging by the attendance and the enthusiastic evaluations, the congress was a success. We wish to thank the Synod of Toronto-Kingston for its seed money and Joyce Davis for convening the first "Journey Together" congress in 1992 in Toronto. Plans for another such event in 1996 are already in progress. If you would like more information, or if you are interested in initiating such an event in your community, please contact Lynda Reid, Area Educational Consultant, at 905/436-9572.

Patricia Keith,
Committee member for "The Journey Together"

Women's health is primarily affected by social factors such as poverty, isolation, and violence.

You can help women in Canada reach the goal of equality in health care.

Participate in the first national walk of solidarity for women and children living with HIV/AIDS, to be held on **Sunday, March 5, 1995**. If you want more information on the event, if you want an organizational kit, or if you want to organize a walk in your area, contact:

Francine Breton
Project Coordinator
Centre for AIDS Services of Montreal (Women)
1831, René-Lévesque Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec
H3H 1R4. Tel: (514) 989-7997, Fax (514) 989-7811

- Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women

OUR READERS Write

I really enjoyed this tape and lovely poem "Living Between Breaths". (October 1994 p18)

Gladys Huston, Ripley, ON

Dear Friend:

I appreciate all the contributors to *Glad Tidings* and the volunteers who read it on tape. I am truly blessed as I have received it as a Christmas gift from a friend for a number of years.

May God richly bless you in your future endeavours.,

Joyce MacVicar, London, ON

Dear June:

I have just finished reading the letter from Emma Paishk, in the October Glad Tidings, and I must say thank God for your concern and for Emma to find a friend in you. It is so hard to understand the reasoning of a Christian school to have at the head such a big blustering woman who could use her size to batter these children by using her strength. I remember another article similar to this sometime ago [about] how cruelly these aboriginal children were used in the Cecilia Jeffrey School. I am so glad Emma wrote about her life before she was sent to the school and one could picture her home teaching about the Creator and His guidance and how she still follows it today. Another thing I remember. Before I was married I was raised in the Anglican faith and as a child in the Junior W.A. we studied about the Indian children in the far north. As time went on, in 1991 all these truths broke out in claims against the Anglican and Presbyterian churches. One was ashamed to be a part of such an existing way of life for these children. I am looking forward to the November Record (hope it will be on the tape as we get it) and if not you can rest assured I will borrow one and read it to my husband and self. I do hope this healing process will go ahead and we can all learn from it. This is the way we should live in the Creator's world. Thank you again for your concern and your "Written in Love" editorials.

Respectfully yours,
(Mrs. J.J.) Helen Chalmers,
Stratford, ON

Birthdays

Overseas Staff

February

7 - Diana Wadsworth, India
12 - Ian Kent, Nepal
18 - Viola Duff, Central America
20 - Nan Budding, Nepal
20 - Hubert Budding, Nepal
28 - Rodger Talbot, Mauritius

March

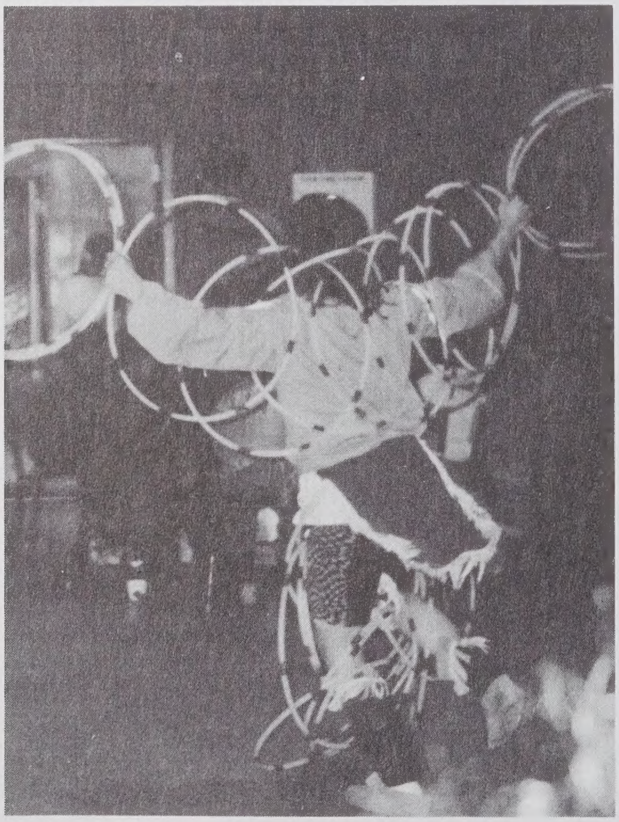
1 - Peggy Reid, Nigeria
8 - John Duff, Central America
18 - Doreen Morrison, India
27 - Margaret Vanderzweerde, India
30 - Bishara Assaly, Jerusalem

In the Society

ARIRANG CHORUS SHARES IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Saskatoon congregations welcomed the Arirang Chorus of the Korean Christian Church in Japan for three days last April (1994). At the airport to greet the visitors was James Byun, President of the Korean Canadian Community Association in Saskatoon.

The choir had come to Canada in 1975 and 1985. Their special purpose on this occasion was threefold. They were celebrating the end of Dr. Jack McIntosh's seven-year court struggle concerning the fingerprinting of aliens; they were seeking a deeper understanding of the history and culture of native Canadians and other minorities; and thirdly they wanted to learn about institutional homes for the elderly, as they are planning to build a home in Japan for the care of seniors.



- Native group performs in Saskatoon.

Following their arrival on the morning of April 27, they had lunch with host families. (Twelve families shared in hosting and/or chauffeuring the guests.) In the afternoon the choir toured the Western Development Museum with Drs. Beth and Jack McIntosh interpreting.

Nearly 100 people, including members of the Native Circle, joined in the welcoming banquet at Calvin-Goforth Church, followed by a Smudge Ceremony conducted by Stewart Folster. Entertainment included a presentation by the Hoop Dancers of Princess Alexandra School under the direction of Valerie Harper, singing by the choir, and a performance of the Sol Chan Go and the Pu Che Chum dances by visiting artists. It was an excellent opportunity to experience the traditions and culture preserved by native groups that have been subjected to 'foreign' domination.

Thursday's program began with a tour of Wanuskewin Park, a native interpretive centre located a few miles north of the city. Lunch included buffalo stew, wild rice, bannock and Saskatoon berry tarts. In the afternoon the guests had a choice of downtown shopping, a tour of the University of Saskatchewan, a visit to Transition House, a rehabilitation centre for men involved in the justice system, the Mendel Art Gallery, and a viewing of the interior of some larger churches on Spadina Crescent in which pipe organs were of special interest.

That evening a banquet of Korean and Canadian food was enjoyed at St. Andrew's Church followed by a concert of the Arirang Chorus with guest soloist Helen Yoo of Saskatoon and the performance of Korean

- Members of the Arirang Chorus (taken in Toronto, ON) with Beth and Jack McIntosh, top left, Kay Cowper, centre, Beverley McWhinnie and Tam Corbett, top right.

dance. Pastor Shan An and members of the Korean Community Church were also present.

On Friday morning the Choir visited the Sherbrook Community Centre followed by lunch at the McKercher Drive Church prior to their leaving for Winnipeg. The host committee included Bob Wilson, Superintendent of Missions, Donna Wilkinson, AEC, Stewart Folster, Native Circle Ministry, as well as Yoka de Bruijn and Gaye Donovan of the Saskatoon Presbyterial.

PRESBYTERIAL

Barrie Presbyterial held its Annual Retreat September 23-25 at Cherish Creek, Vankoughnet, Ontario under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Jim Sitler and Gwen Boyes-Sitler. The Book of Ruth was the basis for the study focusing on "Miracles in the Marketplace: Everyday Encounters and Compassionate Connections." Worship, sing-songs, discussion, sharing and fellowship in a beautiful setting contributed to an inspirational and relaxing weekend. A Communion Service on Sunday concluded the Retreat.

Barrie Presbyterial Fall Rally was held September 15 hosted by St. David's Church in Vankoughnet, at Camp-Oak-a-Lea, theme: *For God Has Not Given Us a Spirit of Timidity, but of Power, of Love and Self-Discipline* - 2 Timothy 1:7.

Call to Worship and welcome were given by Marie Schandlen, Presbyterial President and Irene Boyes, Vankoughnet President.

Orillia WMS led devotions. The business portion was followed by book reviews. Lynda Reid, AEC and leaders held a bible study based on I Corinthians 1:18-31.

Following lunch a sing-song was led by June Campbell.

Guest speaker Audrey Little spoke on "In Niger or Vankoughnet".

Rev. Dr. George C. Vais, Moderator of the 120th General Assembly, conducted the Communion Service.

Calgary-Macleod Presbytery and Presbyterial invited the congregations in Calgary to meet and hear Jack and Beth McIntosh, who have served as missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada since 1961 with the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

On Sunday evening October 9th, Jack and Beth visited Chalmers Church for an evening of slides, story telling and questions. Special music was presented by the Calgary Korean Church choir.

In the morning, they spoke at

Varsity Acres Church.

Saturday, October 15th, Jack attended a breakfast at Trinity Church followed by story telling and questions. Jack spoke about how to be a Christian minister in a country like Japan, where the Ministry of Legal Affairs had all the power, and how he attempted to make clear the Biblical mandate of the sovereignty of God.

The congregations in Calgary were honoured to have the McIntoshes as guests and learned so much about their life in Japan.

The Fall Rally of **Stratford-Huron** Presbyterial met in Listowel, Ontario.

Devotions based on Psalm 67 were led by Joyce Harris, Bernice Richards and Janet Burt of St.Andrew's, Stratford.

June 2-4, 1995
Crieff Hills Community
Conference on Global Issues

The Gospel
The Church in Europe
The Church and the United Nations
The World

For further information watch: the PCPak, the mailing to Commissioners to Assembly, WMS mailings; AMS mailings; Newsletter to Regional Staff. For more information contact: Crieff Hills Community; Church Office - Joyce Hodgson, Barbara Woodruff or June Stevenson; your regional Staff.

Guest speakers, Miriam and David Barrie showed slides and spoke of their work in Malawi. Their main objective was to teach better methods of farming and conservation. One of their main projects was to develop a 280-acre plot of land into a demonstration farm.

Miriam led an adult literary group of 68 women, some of whom had never gone to school. 85% of the women in the village cannot read.

Janet Gibson, St. Marys, thanked the Barries for their presentation. Jean Edmunds reported on the WMS Council meeting.

The meeting closed with a hymn and the Mizpah Benediction.

The Fall Rally of **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held at St. James, Forest, Ontario on October 18. Following a potluck supper the guest speaker was school teacher Fred Moss. He showed pictures and told of his experiences in Nepal where he spent two months representing the Teacher's Federation. He both taught school and instructed the teachers. The rally was chaired by president Bonnie Arbour.

The 80th Annual Rally of **Quebec** Presbyterial was held in St. Andrew's Church, Melbourne, Quebec on September 19.

Robin Fowler, president of the Presbyterian Women's group, welcomed everyone. Presbyterial President, Roxieanne Walker, welcomed everyone.

Elizabeth Sandford led the devotions on the theme *Rooted and Fruitful*.

Ann Milne, AEC, reported briefly on the Council meeting and led a workshop on "Rooting".

Following lunch, guest speaker Ruth Lewis, Quebec Director of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, spoke of her experiences of working with College and CEGEP students. She was thanked by Vera Hughes.

The theme was carried throughout the day. Those present were challenged to stand up, speak out and be counted.

The Fall Rally of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held October 1 at Margaret Rodger Memorial Church, Lachute, Quebec. Presiding was President Lois Klempa.

Host minister Nicolas Athanasiadis led the worship service and Harris Athanasiadis played the organ. Amy McMahon, President of the WMS welcomed the members and gave a short history of the church, including the interesting fact that Margaret Rodger, a member of the congregation went to India as a missionary in 1873.

Theme for the day was *African Churches Speak*. The special music led by Binta Mamboh was a song of the Cameroons.

A memorial for Elizabeth Kennedy was given by Alberta Abbott.

After an exercise break led by Grace Thornley-Brown, Mary Lou Johnston introduced speaker Ijeoma Ross, a journalist and one of 320 observers who went to South Africa for the elections representing the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The afternoon session began with a sing-song led by Jan Manson. Workshops "Mission Partners in Africa" were led by AEC Ann Milne.

Mission Study was the theme for the **Ottawa** Presbyterial meeting held at St. Andrew's Church, Kars, Ontario on September 28. A welcome was extended by Joanne Maples of the host church. Devotions were lead by Peggy Malcolm.

The 1994-95 Mission Study was introduced, and parts of videos were shown. There was a Book Display at the meeting.

WMS group representatives shared programmes held during the year, one of them being an Essay Contest for young people on the topic, "Mission".

LOCAL

The WMS group at **St. Columba Church, Richmond B.C.** held their Fall Thankoffering on Sunday, November 6.

The programme was based on the Thanksgiving service in the August/September Glad Tidings and led by Marjorie Scott, Dorothy Thompson, Darlene Jones, Kay Berry and Margaret Thomas.

Elizabeth Mabee, accompanied by Carolyn Hart, provided music.

Rev. Murat Kuntel, welcomed everyone and closed with prayer. Guest speaker was Linda Littlejohn,

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president of the Surrey Chapter of Womens Aglow. She spoke on "The Call of Jesus" and inspired all of those present.

The WMS of **Gordon** Church, **Burnaby**, B.C. were pleased to have two guest speakers: Zena MacKay, secretary, B.C. Synodical and Laurie Jackson, President, B.C. Synodical, at the September meeting.

Laurie's enthusiasm for the new five year plan developed at the Council Meetings in May was contagious and our members are really looking forward to the positive new directions planned for the WMS. Zena gave us an inside look at the meetings of the General Assembly held in Toronto in June, 1994.

A Life Membership was presented to Irene Sandie in June, 1994 in recognition of her commitment to the work and mission of the Lord.

At **Geneva** Church, **Chesley**, Ontario, three WMS Life Memberships were presented on Mission Sunday in October. Shown in the back row are Betty and Jack Geddes, guest missionaries from Taiwan, and in the front are Orma McLeod, Tina Owens and Marion Reid being honoured by president Ella Mae Black.

Photo by John Bowers

ANNIVERSARY

The **Glenarm** WMS celebrated 100 years on July 26, 1994 with a special meeting at Knox Church, Glenarm, Ontario.

Approximately 100 people were welcomed by President, Audrey McKee. Greetings were brought from the Lindsay-Peterborough Presbytery by Rev. Mary Whitson and from the Lindsay Presbyterial WMS by June Nesbitt. Lois Locey led the worship service and Win Hoyle, Historian, gave a sketch of the 100 years of the Glenarm group. Members of the present group, dressed in period costumes and assuming the names of the women of the group 100 years ago presented a skit based on a meeting from the minutes of 1894.

- Glenarm celebrates 100 years.

Guest speaker was Lee Ann Purchase, Presbyterian Church in Canada.

June Nesbitt did the courtesies and presented President Audrey McKee with a Life Membership Certificate. Win Hoyle presented Audrey with a Life Membership pin.

Rev. Dorcas Gordon gave the benediction and said grace. A delicious lunch, served by members of the junior congregation, dressed in period costumes was enjoyed by all.

- *Ethel Hooper, Janet Eccles and Irma Clark cutting the anniversary cake at Dromore, Ontario.*

An important and inspiring milestone was reached by the **Dromore** Church on Sunday, October 16 when the WMS celebrated their 100th Anniversary with the Thankoffering Service.

Isobel Morrison, president, presided and gave a meditation. Terry Walker led in a responsive reading, and prayer was offered by Laurie Hooper.

The Amos choir sang two anthems directed by Dianne Leith and accompanied by Kit Patterson.

Three women told about the 100 year history of the Dromore WMS. Donna Milne read the history of the group prepared and given by her mother-in-law, Eva Milne who was president at the time of the 60th anniversary in 1954. Eva Milne, now 101, had given an account of the efforts of the Dromore women to keep the organization afloat during the years of the pioneers, the depression and two World Wars. She told of how the women got up long before dawn on the days of the Presbyterial annual meeting, driving 10 miles by horse and buggy to the Holstein station in order to catch the 7:26 train to Palmerston or Harriston. Terry Walker read an account of the 60th anniversary found in a scrapbook.

Doris Leith told of the history of Saugeen Presbyterial, organized in 1887, with which Dromore WMS was associated with from the time they organized in 1894 until 1974 when they became part of Bruce-Grey Presbyterial.

Guest speaker was Carolyn Padfield who showed slides and

Corrections to *Who and Where*, November 1994

Page 17:

Winnipeg - Flora House
Kelly-Lee Hashemi,
739 Flora Avenue,
Winnipeg, MB R2W 2S8

Winnipeg - Anishinabe Fellowship Centre
Lorraine Major,
393 Kennedy Street, #310
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H2

Page 18:

Synod of Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario
Rev. Deborah Lannon,
Minister,
Knox Presbyterian Church,
Box 1425,
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

VISION 2000 CANADA

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Toronto - January 26-28
Sault Ste Marie - February 2-4
Winnipeg - February 9-11
Saskatoon - February 16-18
Calgary - February 23-25
Vancouver - March 2-4

Vision 2000 Canada is a ministry of EFC

PO Box 154 Waterloo ON N2J 3Z9 Ph: 519-725-2000 Fax: 519-725-2001

spoke on her summer experience with *SPRINT* in Ecuador.

Rev. Vasarhelyi gave the benediction and grace. An anniversary cake was served afterwards by three former members of the Dromore WMS.

One hundred years of WMS were celebrated recently at **Chippawa** Church, **Niagara Falls,** Ontario.

Rev. David Heath, minister, led a worship service and Hazel McGraw, Niagara Presbyterial President, was the speaker.

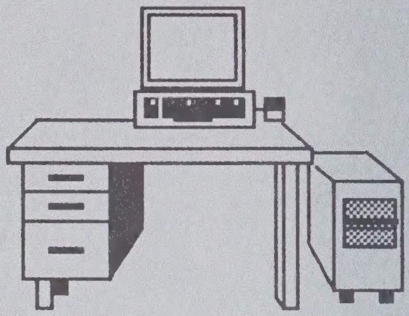
Highlights of 100 years of history were written by Annabelle Ovens, Anna Gray Group president, and presented by ten members in a Candlelighting ceremony.

There was a display of books and pictures and a social hour followed.

Rear: l to r Annabelle Ovens, Marj Wincott; front: Ron McGraw, Rev. Merrill Reside, Edna Reside.

A Little Faith

In a rural community where rain had not fallen for some weeks, and where crops were scorching in the summer sun, a congregation gathered in the church to pray for rain. Only one little girl brought her umbrella. As they closed the prayer service, it began to rain. She alone was prepared for the answer. [Thanks to *The Orbiter*, Red Deer Presbyterial Newsletter.]



Circulation News

Thanks to the Glad Tidings Secretaries and contact people for sending in renewal lists and many new subscribers' names in good time. We hope that all the lists will be in soon as it is costly to send reminders.

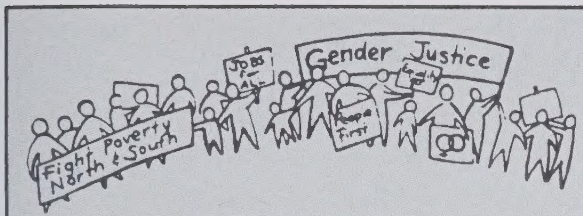
As of December 1 there are 68 lists outstanding.

It is never too late to subscribe to Glad Tidings. If, during the year you know of someone who wishes to subscribe, just send in the name and address and we will add their name(s) to the list. Also, those who have trouble reading the regular size issue can subscribe to the Large Print and cassette tapes, which are kept on a separate list.

If you are having a problem receiving the magazine check with your local post office first, then have the Glad Tidings secretary contact the Glad Tidings office.

If you have a change of address, please notify us immediately and enclose a copy of the label from the magazine with the change.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager



Join the Global Movement for Gender Justice

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Toronto, ON
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The Synod of British Columbia is seeking Regional Staff for two positions:

Youth & Education Director
Pastoral and Programme Director

Job descriptions and information available from *Ian Victor, 2893 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1M1. (604) 926-1812*

The Post Office Comes Through!

A letter recently reached the Editor's desk addressed as follows:

Dr. Don Mills
Glad tidings
ON M3C 1J7
Canada

Sharing God's Life:

The Vine and the Branches

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 22-29, 1995

produced in cooperation with the Canadian Council of Churches

In our Week of Prayer this year, we will reflect together on "Sharing God's Life." Our theme is centred on "koinonia", a Greek word from the New Testament, meaning "communion" or "sharing". The word speaks of characteristics of the divine life we share in Christ, and with each other in the communion of Christ's body. Each day, different aspects of this communion will be the focus of our prayer. And our reflection will be guided and unified by the powerful image of the vine and the branches in the 15th chapter of John's Gospel.

Easier-to-Use-Format

As in last year's Unity kit, the liturgical and educational components are combined. An easier-to-use-format will make it possible for you to adapt the celebrations to the needs of your congregation or parish. The resources are not dated and so may be used at any time throughout the year.

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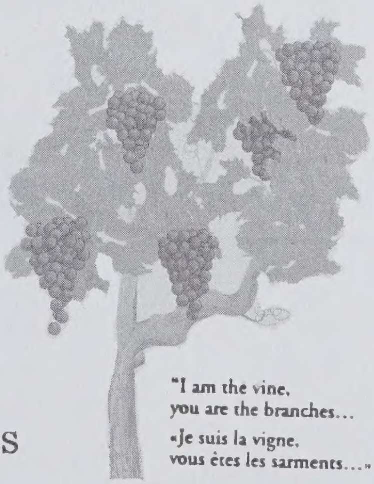

"I am the vine,
you are the branches...
«Je suis la vigne,
vous êtes les sarments...»

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Song of Solomon

A Puzzle

by Jim Phillips

S	O	Y	A	E	W	O	E	S	P	S
H	E	N	N	A	H	C	E	D	A	R
F	S	O	H	R	E	K	Y	E	L	N
T	E	M	R	V	A	S	N	O	M	O
H	L	A	M	R	T	I	E	F	H	R
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R	P	N	L	L	E	O	L	I	L	F
Y	A	I	A	I	P	D	R	A	N	A
M	M	C	A	L	A	M	U	S	I	S
H	O	N	E	Y	R	R	L	R	L	S
I	N	A	F	I	G	O	A	T	S	L

aloes (4:14)

apples (2:5)

calamus (4:14)

cedar (1:17)

cinnamon (4:14)

fig (2:13)

goats (4:1)

grape (7:12)

henna (1:14)

honey (5:1)

lily (2:1)

mandrakes (7:13)

milk (5:1)

myrrh (1:13)

nard (4:14)

palm (7:7)

pine (1:17)

raisins (2:5)

saffron (4:14)

wheat (7:2)

Special February Days

Handel's Birthday: February 23

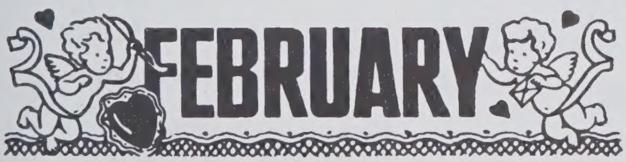
A Paraphrase of Psalm 148

Praise the Lord, ye heavens, adore him;
Praise him, angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;
Praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! For he hath spoken;
World's his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance hath he made.

This anonymous hymn, along with four others, was pasted in the back of a hymnal in the chapel of London's Foundling Hospital about 1801. The Foundling Hospital was not really a hospital. Established in 1739 by Thomas Corum, a wealthy shipbuilder, it has a home for children abandoned on London's streets. By 1760 it had become a home for illegitimate children.

George Frederick Handel, a generous friend of the Foundling Hospital, was a frequent visitor. He donated a pipe organ for the chapel. He also conducted performances of his oratorio Messiah for several years to raise funds for the home. Fashionable people from the wealthiest section of London frequently visited the Foundling Hospital, especially on Sundays to hear the music of the chapel services.

Taken from *Songs of Glory: Stories of 300 Great Hymns and Gospel Songs* by William J. Reynolds (Zondervan PublishingHouse, 1990).



I am about to create new heavens and a new earth.
Isaiah 65:17

With the help of a small loan, this Indian woman is able to supplement her family's income by selling rice cakes.

Change the World

Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) sees changes in communities where our resources and our partners' know-how work together.

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IN MEMORIAM

Mary Sherrick

Mary Sherrick passed away November 21, 1994 at Weyburn, Saskatchewan. Mary was appointed to serve on the Bhil Field, India in 1933. She retired on May 23, 1975 after teaching for many years in the Amkhut Schools.

A native of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Mary received a B.A. degree from the University of Saskatchewan and her Bachelor of Education degree. She also attended the Missionary and Deaconess Training School (Ewart College), Toronto.

During her time of service, Mary saw the development of the Amkhut School System to the place where it gave to its Bhil students a high standard of academic training, mixed with vocational training. Mary served as Principal of the Amkhut School.

During the second World War, she served for a short time in British Guiana as Principal of the Berbice High School.

Mary is survived by three sisters, Ruth McFadden, Weyburn, Kathleen, Duncan, B.C., Margaret, Edmonton, and her niece and nephews. She was a life time member of Knox, Weyburn.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mr. Walter Steckley,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, Ont.

Emily (Emma) Kenny, (108 yrs.)
St. Andrew's, Cobden, Ont.

Mrs. Audrey Coupland,
Miss Lillian Horovitz,
St. Andrew's, Cobourg, Ont.

Mrs. Norma McLaren,
St. John's, Cornwall, Ont.

Mrs. Malcolm Lamond,
Cromarty, Ont.

Mrs. Jessie Stewart,
Kenyon, Dunvegan, Ont.

Mrs. Florence Waisman,
St. Paul's, Eckville, Alta

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Knox, Goderich, Ont.

Mrs. Sybil Crosier,
St. John & St. Andrew,
Hamilton, Ont.

Mrs. Ethel Rutherford,
Lucknow, Ont.

Mrs. G. (Violet) Glasgow,
Mrs. S. (Clara) Hines,
Chippawa, Niagara Falls, Ont.

Jessie Sturdy,
Paterson Memorial, Sarnia, Ont.

Miss Mary MacLean,
St. Andrew's, Sarnia, Ont.

Mrs. Grace Scott,
First, Seaforth, Ont.
(formerly Cromarty Church)

Mrs. Anna Hyde,
St. Andrew's,
Shakespeare, Ont.

Nellie Foley,
Westminster,
Smiths Falls, Ont.

Miss Edith Salisbury, (103 yrs.)
Knox, Sooke, B.C.

Mrs. Margaret Doll,
St. Andrew's,
Southampton, Ont.

Mrs. Isabel Nixon,
St. Andrew's, Streetsville, Ont.

Mrs. Mary Isabel Browne,
St. Andrew's,
Thunder Bay, Ont.

Leta Horn,
Knox, Waterdown, Ont.

Mrs. Sadie Bowerman,
Knox, Weyburn, Sask.

Reminder: When sending in a name for the *In Remembrance* column, please give the name of the Church and how you would like the name listed i.e. Mrs., Miss, etc. We usually like to have the person's first name. It is also helpful to send in the name directly to the Glad Tidings office as soon as possible after the person's passing. This prevents the notice from being too outdated. Notices for "In Remembrance" are the responsibility of the Local Group Secretary.

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Inspiration

It wasn't from cresting the vaulted depths
with the height of the climb at my feet;
It wasn't despairing to see more terrain
that caused me to fall in defeat.
But surely when softness cushioned my walk
apathy echoed its song,
For I plodded the barren stretch of routine
with no challenge to spur me on.

It was never the turbulent waters
that raged and tore through my life,
That left me floundering, helpless
adrift in the surging tide;
But rather the lulling beauty
and the lure of familiar shores,
That fashioned my days with indifferent thought
and compelled me to stay where I was.

Creator, give me a yearning
for the valleys shadowed and steep;
For deserts that breathe their fire and dust
for waves that crash at my feet.
And surely then I'll accomplish much
when stirred by the spiritual pace;
When inspiration is fueled on the path
of hardship tempered with grace.

Barbara Mitchell

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The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive
North York, Ontario, M3C 1J7
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Fax: 1-416-441-2825

Please report any errors/changes in address.

Glad Tidings

March/April 1995

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Glad Tidings

MAR./APR. 1995 **Vol. 71 No.2**

L. JUNE STEVENSON
EDITOR

KATHERINE ALLEN
CIRCULATION MANAGER

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

CREDITS:
Cover photo by Alma Barkman

March 1995

Setting Things *Left*!

I'm tired of being discriminated against at dinner parties and restaurants, and being *left* out of the mainstream. I don't want to have to use butter knives the *right* way or to have to pour punch from a one-sided ladle. There is not only a *right* way to do things, there is a *left* way, and it's time we *left*-handed persons rebelled!

Ever since I can remember, I've known it's a *right*-handed world. Did anyone else in my class get a sore thumb every time we used scissors or smear the paper with their hand when they wrote? Even today I grimace when I have to use the pen at the teller's counter in the bank. The pens are always placed to the *right* and the chain is not long enough to stretch to the *left*. So I've learned to compensate. If the pen doesn't come to you, you move to the pen.

All my life I've had to adapt. I was a whiz at badminton because I simply changed hands depending on which side the birdie was. I learned to bowl with my *right* hand and play baseball with my *left*. (That was an advantage because it frustrated the pitcher!) I knit and crochet in a *right*-handed way, but my *left* hand guides the wool. My mother, while not *left*-handed herself, managed to teach me many things through her patience and my skill at adaptation. Now if I could just find someone to help me with chopsticks and can openers!

What really hurts is the ingrained attitude of society that *right* is *the* way to be. To be *right* is to be morally good or proper; to be *right* minded is to not be mad; even the archaic meaning of *right* is to be straight, not oblique! To extend the *right* hand is to extend the better hand; to be on one's *right* side is to be in favor with.

To be *left*, on the other hand, so to speak is to be sinister (from the French word for left). Having two *left* feet, being out in *left* field, *left*overs, all have negative connotations. In some parts of the world, the *left* hand is unclean and dishonorable.

Even my church discriminates against me. The minister shakes everyone's *right* hand after the service. And when the *right* hand of fellowship is extended it's downright effrontery! In all the revisions of the Scriptures, no adjustments have been made for *left*-handed people. To be on the *right* hand of God is still the only place to be, and believers are still enjoined to become *right*eous.

Growing up *left*-handed has made me aware that the struggle for human dignity won't go away as long as there are those in our society whose individual differences are pushed aside or ignored. The struggle for inclusive language will continue until individuals and groups are recognized as the people of God, not only the sons, or the daughters. God knows, butter knives and ladles may seem trivial in the larger scheme of theme of things but for me they are symbols on the journey to be fully human. Let's carry on setting things *right/left*!

Written in Love
June.

Voices from the Past...

Each issue of Glad Tidings in 1995 will have selected material from previous issues. Following is an editorial that challenged us to be in mission in the late 50s.

Editorial: "What is Mission?"

by E. H. Johnson, B. Sc., B. Th., D.D.

Mission can be described as God's activity through the Church, by which the saving purpose of God for all may be fulfilled. Such a description leads us to think of the nature of the missionary activity of the Church. And it carries us forward to think of the meaning of that activity for the world.

"Mission is God's activity through the Church." In thinking of our missionary task it is important to recognize that this is something which God is doing. In earlier times "the Word became flesh." God came and dwelt among people in the Person of His Son. And God has continued to use this method of approaching lost humankind by clothing Himself with men and women through whom the Word of God is spoken, and through whom God's kindly ministry reaches needy people. Those who go out in God's Name carry with them frailties and the weaknesses of human nature; but the deep strength and meaning of their service is that God is at work through them.

...the "mission of the Church" has its might in the Lord, Who has commanded the Church to go on a mission. The real scope and possibility of that mission is not in the community which is called the Church, but in the purpose and power of the One Who sends the Church to its task.

The goal of the mission is no less than to save humankind. Somehow or other, the meaning of that term "Salvation" has become obscured and twisted into narrow and strange senses. In its plainest terms, God desires to save us from the frustration and destruction which we draw upon ourselves, and to give us the fullness of life and achievement which God has prepared for us. This magnificent vision shines clear in the Phillips translation of Ephesians 1:9-10, "God purposes in His Sovereign Will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in Heaven or earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in Him."

God's saving activity is deeply related to our life on earth. God purposes to call us from ways that are empty, meaningless, and damaging, to ways that are fulfilling and rich with meaning, and part of God's eternal building. God does not remove us from the struggles and the sorrows and the tragedies of life in this world, but God does illumine our lives so that over all these things there shines a golden light which gives us positive meaning. God calls the nations to their true destiny, for it is only in the service of the God of all the earth that they can discover themselves in ways that are mutually strengthening, rather than mutually destructive. The task of the

Church serving the mission of God is to go into all the world, calling people and nations, to recognize the One Who is their true Sovereign, and the One Who has the secret of their fulfillment.

When we see the mission of the Church in these terms, we see that it commands the obedience of every Christian. The call to be a Christian is the call to be a missionary. No one is exempted. The only question we have is where our mission lies. The Church, to be the Church, must be deeply and totally missionary. The great task of our day is to take Churches, which have become complacent and domesticated within their situations, and call them to the missionary outreach which is the essential character of their being.

We see the mission as a task to every individual, regardless of who, or where, he or she is. It is a mission to the person next door, and to the person at the farthest point across the world. It is to the person of my own nation and race, and to the person of another nation and of a different race. It is a mission to my friend and ally, and a mission to my enemy and opponent.... No one lies outside the saving love of God, and no one should be outside the saving concerns of Christ's Church.

God's Church has gone out in its mission across the world in small ways which have achieved amazing results. People of every nation and people of every race have heard the Good News, and have recognized the One Who is their true King. The poor and the homeless, the blind and the deaf, the widows and the orphans, the imprisoned and the lepers, have felt the kindly hand of Jesus Christ. The Glory of God in Jesus Christ has been manifested by God's Church all across the world, and this is a glory in which the Church can rejoice. But the work has just begun, and Christian people see only faintly the immeasurable greatness of Christ's power and purpose.

We must catch anew a clear and vivid vision of that power and wisdom of God, which sends us out across the world to complete the purpose which God has had from the moment of creation.

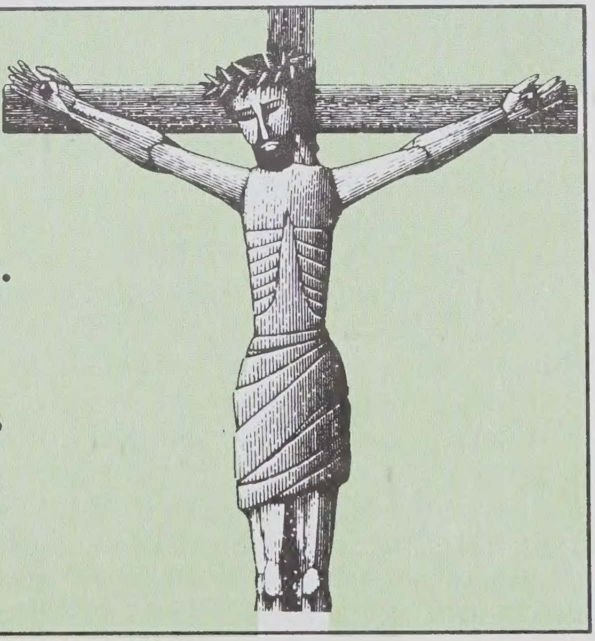
- Adapted from an editorial in Glad Tidings, April 1957. Dr. E. H. Johnson was Secretary for Overseas Missions from 1954 until 1972, as well as serving in many capacities both overseas and in North America.

Time Timeless

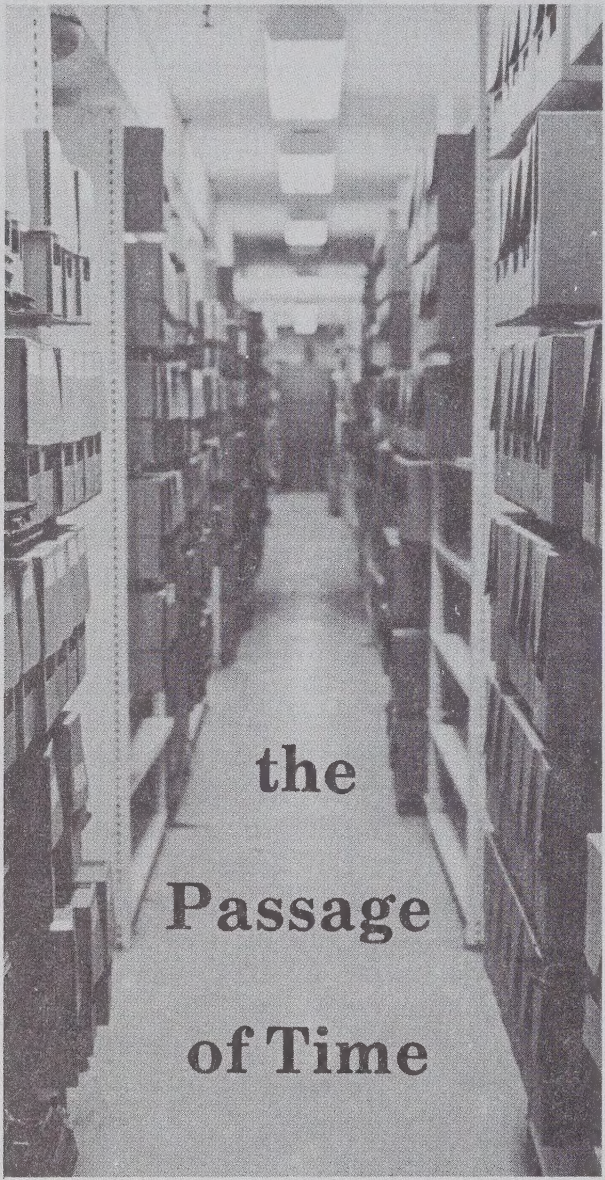
You came from Mary's womb
as eternity, bisecting
our time with unfurled hands.

And when you died,
eternity was filled with hours
held in outstretched arms.

Joanna M. Weston



Documenting the Passage of Time



by Kim Arnold and Loren Fantin

- Looking down the stacks at Knox College, where the Archives was previously located.

The ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives is to collect, preserve, and make available records of the Church. Our holdings currently comprise 3,000 square feet of records, including both the Archives and Records Centre (the latter located at 50 Wynford Drive). As part of the Service Agency, the Archives is committed to a high calibre of public service. Since our records are a national resource, we are also part of the cultural and heritage community of Canada. One of the largest collections within our holdings are the records belonging to the Women's Missionary Society and its precursors.

Lodged in the basement of Knox College since our official opening in June of 1973, the Archives has had to relocate due to environmental problems caused by Taddle Creek, which runs underneath the area of Knox College where the Archives had been situated.

We are now located in the heart of the downtown core, on the first floor of a small, renovated office building. This allows for greater floor space and better control over our climatic conditions, which is so important for the optimum preservation of the documentation in our care. We now offer researchers a separate reading room complete with microfilm reader-printer, photocopier, detailed inventories and secondary reference sources. Access to the records within our collection is through the use of an INMAGIC database.

Our researchers number over 3,000 annually, with the majority being Ontario residents. However, our significant collection of Canadian and overseas mission records ensures that the overall profile of researchers is international in scope. Our clientele includes many national office staff, the congregations

- This 1945 photo of the General Council WMS (WD) is in the Archives' WMS collection

and organizations that form The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Members of the WMS have been frequent visitors to the Archives.

Archival records are valuable, one-of-a-kind items and may be used for a variety of purposes. Recent research obtained from Presbyterian records has been used for land ownership issues, architectural studies for the renovation of the national office, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, thesis material for students, litigation support, and the Anne of Avonlea television series, as well as background material for renowned authors such as Alice Munro.

Our largest collection is comprised of congregational and organizational records from across Canada. These records are both socially relevant as well as legally significant. The outside dates of the collection are 1794-1995 inclusive, and serve to document many facets of Canadian church and society. Other large collections serviced by the Archives are the administrative records of the national office, and the mission records from the Life and Mission Agency and the Women's Missionary Society. Our facility is the only Presbyterian Church repository in Canada.

Documents from the women's societies include records of the Montreal Woman's Missionary Society, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the Women's Home Missionary Society, the Woman's Missionary Society (Eastern Division), now the Atlantic Mission Society, and the Women's Missionary Society (Western Division). Records of the Provincials, Synodicals, and Presbyterials of each of the various women's missionary societies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada from 1864 to the present are also part of our collection.

The WMS collection consists of correspondence, annual reports, periodicals, personnel records, and other records generated by the Council, Council Executive and the administrative departments of the WMS. The collection is divided into broad categories such as records of the WMS Council Executive; records of the National Missions Department.... Other material included in the collection are memoirs, biographies, scrapbooks, pamphlets, and records pertaining to church union.

In addition to textual records, the Archives houses a wide variety of record formats, including microfilm, graphic (including glass lantern slides), photographic, cartographic, and audiovisual documents. Our graphic collection includes circa 10,000 photograph items in mostly print form. We can have them reproduced upon request and frequently do for congregations, organizations, general historical publications and media use.

Although we have a large number of photographs deposited by the WMS depicting scenes from the various missions, we have few photographs of local WMS activity. We would encourage you to consider depositing such photographs in the Archives. Please provide as much information as possible about each photograph that you wish to donate.

Microfilms are a large component of our collection, and for the past number of years we have coordinated a successful microfilming programme on behalf of Presbyterian organizations. Hundreds of congregations have participated in this program over the past few years. Microfilming is very inexpensive insurance for your records. At the same time, microfilming allows a copy of your records to be housed in the Archives in a portable format for reference purposes, while the original records are retained by you. Issues of *Glad Tidings* dating from 1925 to 1952 have already been microfilmed and are currently housed in the Archives in specially constructed dust-free microfilm cabinets.

Archives on tape, or oral history, is another form of media that we include in our holdings. Speech is the oldest form of communication and is still considered the most effective form of expression, allowing the interviewer to obtain valuable information from an individual's unique perspective. Oral history often relays experiences that make history but are rarely recorded on paper. Should there be interest in beginning an oral history programme in your locality, we invite you to contact us for specific assistance on interviewing techniques.

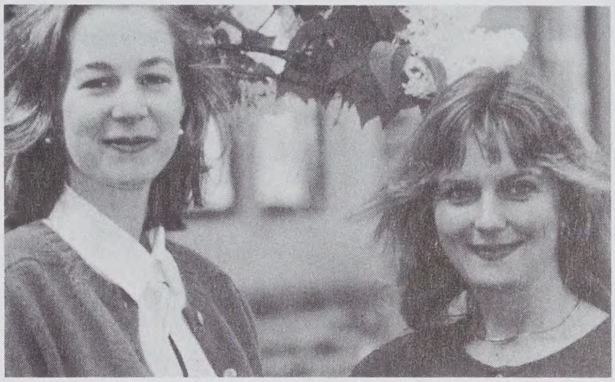
Either through personal visits or via the telephone, we offer advice on such issues as the care, storage, and security of records. We are able to offer these services through funds generated by Presbyterians Sharing, which supports the work of the Archives. Helpful hints on the care of records can also be found in our newsletter, entitled *Step into your Archives*. This newsletter is published twice a year and is distributed in the PCPak to all ministers and clerks across the country. Please call if you are interested in receiving a copy of future and/or back issues of the newsletter.

The Archives collection mandate does not include artifacts but the Committee on History has begun to investigate the possibility of a Presbyterian museum. Anyone interested in donating artifacts should contact the Convener of the Committee on History for further information. Some years ago, the Archives was offered Miss Catherine Campbell's personal effects which had been retrieved from her mission work in India. Included in the items were a portable organ that folded into a suitcase which she had carried with her throughout her travels. We also received many pieces of 18 and 24K gold as well as other hand made percussion instruments and ornate alabaster boxes and silk scarves. As we were not able to properly display these items, we offered them to her home congregation in Molesworth, Ontario. They welcomed these artifacts with the intention of displaying them as a memorial to Miss Campbell's work.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives is a unique aspect of the Church's mission, and as part of the national Church our services are available to the Presbyterian community from coast to coast. A major part of our ministry is to assist Presbyterians with their needs in the management and care of records as well as to highlight their research value. We encourage the readership of the Glad Tidings, particularly those who have not as yet made use of our services, to benefit from the culturally and historically rich documents of the WMS collection to be found in The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives.

> *Of all our national assets, archives are our most precious: They are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization.*
>
> - Sir Arthur Doughty, Dominion Archivist, 1904-1935

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives, 11 Soho Street, Suite 104,
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1Z6
Telephone (416) 595-1277
Fax (416) 591-1252
Telephone enquiries: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-4:30; Reading room: Mon.-Fri. 1:30-4:30



- Kim Arnold, right, is Archivist, Records Administrator and Loren Fantin, left, is Assistant Archivist.

Advice for WMS members involved in the care of records:

1. The proper environmental conditions are of paramount importance for the care of documents. Paper breaks down over time because of its natural acidic properties, but the appropriate environment can significantly extend the lifespan of a record. Those holding records must assess the safety of them in their present location. Ideally, a separate, locked room which is secure should be allocated to store the records. The climate inside the room should be stable with the ideal values at 70 degrees and 45 per cent humidity. For this reason, basement locations are not recommended. Sunshine, giving off harmful UV rays, should be avoided by choosing a location without windows or by blocking the windows with dark curtains. Some type of fire protection is necessary either in the form of sprinklers or fire extinguishers. Be wary of questionable electrical systems.
2. Other basic requirements for your official (or primary) records include good quality or acid-free cardboard storage boxes, envelopes and file folders of varying sizes and, if possible, inexpensive metal shelving. Avoid the use of scotch tape and elastic bands as these will deteriorate and stain the paper over time. Minimize the use of paper clips as most will rust and stain. Strongly recommended are: plastic clips, stainless steel and plastic covered metal clips. Newspaper clippings, magazine articles, etc. should not be kept in with your regular files. If the information is important, then it should be photocopied with the copy kept in a regular file. Newspaper contains a high acid content which can transfer to other documents if stored together. All photographs, maps and plans should be properly identified with full names and dates written in pencil, not pen or marker as chemicals in the ink tend to bleed and damage the paper.
3. Most important of all, however, is to keep a detailed listing of the records in your possession including title, date and brief description of each item.

Pilate's Question

What shall I do with Jesus?

The question that Pilate posed:
I can find no fault in Him
He said, *So what shall I do with this man?*

Crucify Him! the mob, let loose
Cried in its fury and pain,
Crucify Him! Let Him die!
Let life be the robber's gain.

And still today we are asking:
What shall we do about Jesus?
Our question again and again
And we wait for an answer.

Shall we let Him go by without heeding?
Or shall we give unto Him all our hearts?
What shall we do about Jesus?
Give unto Him all our hearts!

Kay Berry

- British Columbia Synodical Newsletter, March 1994

Snap Happy!

by Terry Nicholls

Submitting a photo to Glad Tidings?
Read this article first for helpful hints. Editor

Some years ago some English friends who were in Canada on a bus tour, asked if we could meet them in Niagara where we might show them the sights. The weather was dull when we started off, but imagine my dismay to find thick fog enveloping the whole falls on our arrival. No amount of words can adequately substitute for the visual of such a spectacle. Fortunately, I had the advantage of many published photos of the area and with those and much gesticulation I made an attempt to describe the scene.

Today is a 'visual' age. As people grow more and more used to receiving information visually, through videos and computers, the old adage 'a picture is worth a thousand words' still rings true. Photographic images are available from all over the world, from under the sea and from outer space. Basically all these photos are taken with cameras similar to those we all know. Most people own or can borrow a camera. Often, the reluctance to use a camera more often is generally cost. This can be a factor if the pictures are poor, but when the results are good the cost seems trivial.

I have been spurred into writing this article on slightly selfish grounds, for one aspect of my work is to advise on printing magazines and periodicals like the *Glad Tidings.* However, I do hope that you, the "photographer," will get more enjoyment out of and maybe even be surprised at the difference these few hints will make to your pictures.

The basic elements of the graphic layout of each page consist of typed words and illustrations. We communicate by words and pictures. While you may think that editors are 'snowed under' by pictures, the fact is that few photographs are really good or even acceptable for printing. Of course some publishers employ professional photographers to supply the quality and quantity required but that makes the photos expensive and beyond the scope of magazines like the *Glad Tidings.* If this article produces 10% better quality photographs submitted, I will be happy - the editor will be delighted!

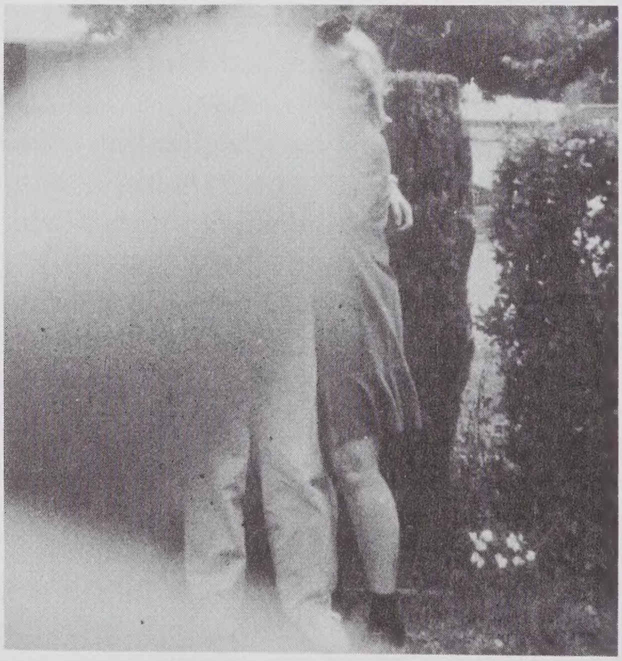
Become familiar with your camera

Let's take the simplest form of camera first. This type of camera has two movements - one to wind the film on and the other to release the shutter. So simple - no apertures (an opening through which light passes) - what could possibly go wrong? The manufacturer has chosen a lens to make everything from five feet to infinity in focus and chosen a shutter speed to take good pictures in normal outdoor lighting of average subjects. All too often we then do everything to prevent that happening and blame the manufacturer. If you have a new camera it helps to read the accompanying information carefully so you will know the limitations of your particular camera i.e. distance for best shots.

Go and get your camera right now, I'll wait. Now, study it as if you have never seen it before. Has it got a film in it? The more complicated cameras often don't have a "little window" - instead there is a counter - but they often work with or without a film being loaded! A simple tip is to stick a piece of masking tape over the camera back when you load the film and write the film speed, the number of shots, and whether print or slide e.g. 400 ASA 24 P. The date might be added if you don't take many pictures. Remove this information when you unload the camera.

Fingers and fuzzy photos

Now, the "see the object - take the picture" routine. The simplest type of camera has a separate view finder from the lens and, though the view seems clear through the finder, the lens may be covered. Fingers are not very photogenic when too close to the lens (see illustration). They may also obscure large or small areas of the photo.



A soft tissue is the best way of cleaning the lens, and most camera stores will clean a camera lens at no charge. It really makes a lot of difference to the clarity of pictures.

The next major fault is movement, not of the subject, but by the photographer. The jerky motion in pressing the button accounts for many fuzzy pictures - so try holding your breath while you squeeze the button.

Carry your camera with confidence, then you can ask people to "stand here", "go over there" or "look here". Mostly everyone will oblige, so you can be a little selective in arranging your picture. I often take one quick shot before anybody expects it and then take another when everyone knows I'm taking it. Isolate the subject wherever possible from extraneous objects and cluttered backgrounds. You would be amazed at the number of pictures submitted with 'things' growing out of peoples heads - from deer antlers to church spires or trunks of trees, and though mechanically these can be removed, it is costly.

Don't say cheese!

When taking pictures of people try to use natural daylight whenever possible. If only one person is the subject then try having them sit casually and, unless there is a very good reason, don't try to take the whole figure. The face is the personality and should take up the major area of the photo. In any case try to be as natural as possible and *don't* say "cheese", for this is interpreted as "fix a smile" or "close your eyes".

Always take at least two pictures of everything. That may seem wasteful but often the second pictures are "the only ones" you really want to show. Don't take two identical pictures, but try a different angle or distance.

Groups of people should be kept as small as possible. If that is impossible try taking the picture from the side rather than straight on. It is surprising how many more faces you can get in by doing this, still keep the focus and get a very interesting shot.

Although buildings would seem fairly simple to photograph, some pointers are necessary. The first thing is to hold the camera vertical to the foremost corner. Try to avoid wires or vehicles obstructing the image (see illustration). Most important, look for any interesting detail and take a shot of that as close as practical.

On lighting and rabbits

Sunlight is the most easily obtained lighting but when unavailable in quality or quantity then we must substitute. The flash units available for the simple cameras are very good for average subjects and at average distance, but are definitely not sufficient to be used in large halls i.e. to cover conventions. Get to within 12 feet for the best results. Again, try the candid shots as well as the posed - they are often better indoors.

One more tip that I hope will be handy when you are using flash is to avoid "pink eye". Pink eye occurs when light from the flash enters the subject's eyes and lights up the retina at the back. It then reflects back as red colour. The camera detects red very well and the result is that 'Aunt Mabel' may look more like a white rabbit with pink eyes.

To avoid this situation ask the subject to look about an arms length from your camera. The slight change of angle of the eyes will stop the light bouncing directly back and yet it still appears as if the subject is looking at the camera. This also helps avoid the objection of looking at a blinding flash by the subject and should also prove helpful when photographing people who wear glasses, for it cuts down a lot of glare.

With more complicated types of cameras, there are several controls to set before taking the picture, but all of the previous pointers apply. The avid photographer will want to take courses and perhaps join local camera clubs, so more complicated photography will not be dealt with here. Hopefully, those of you who submit photos to *Glad Tidings* will be encouraged to use these tips to increase your confidence and improve the quality of your pictures.

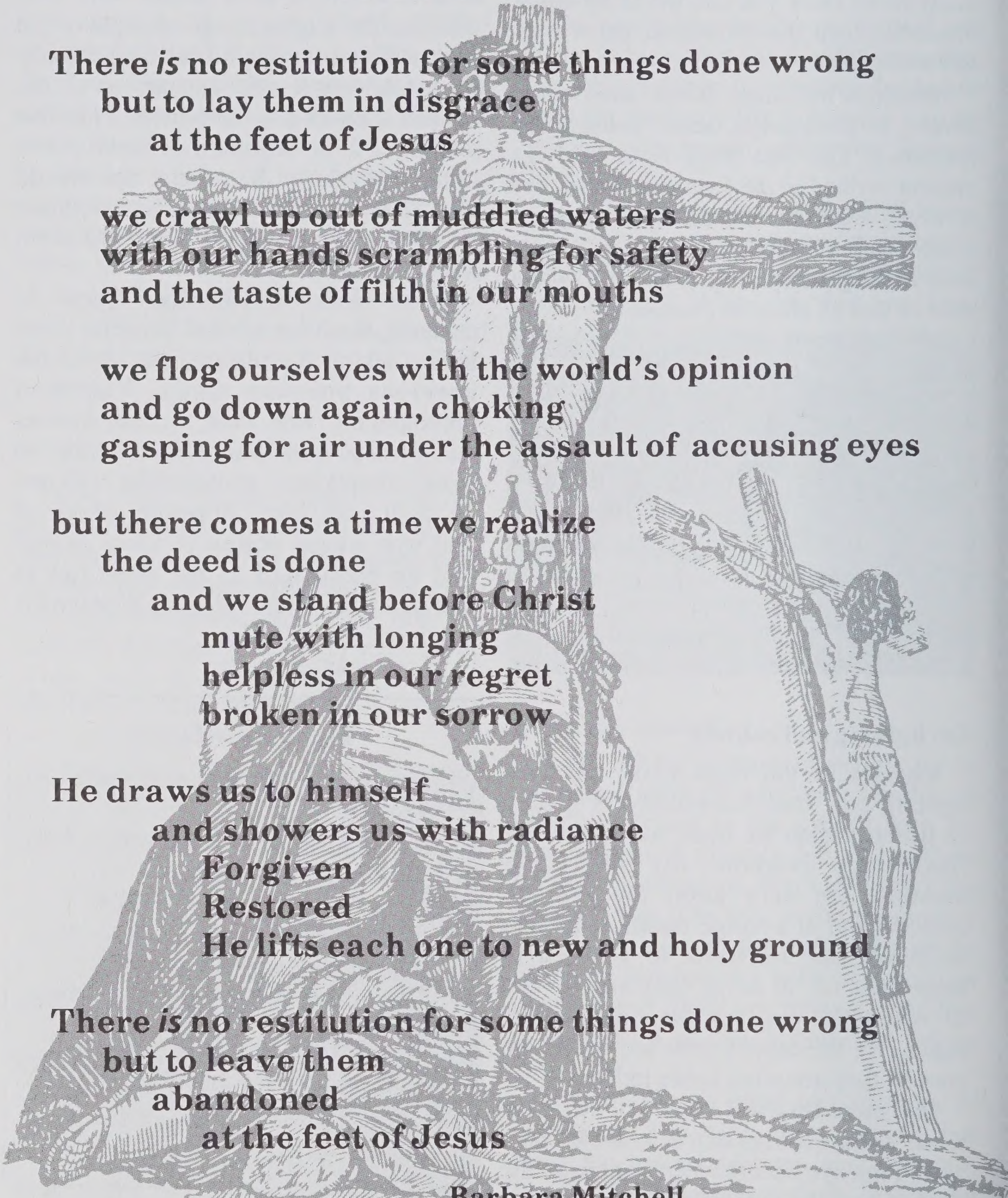
Happy photography!

Tips from Terry

1. Examine your equipment and clean the lens.
2. Select your subject and isolate it by clearing the background.
3. Try to get some close up shots.
4. Hold the camera steady—even support it against a solid object.
5. Take at least two shots of everything.
6. If you are submitting pictures for publication—send more than one and the editor will have a better feel for the subject.

Terry Nicholls is president of Tern Graphics and has been associated with the production of Glad Tidings *for over 20 years.*

Restitution



There *is* no restitution for some things done wrong
but to lay them in disgrace
at the feet of Jesus

we crawl up out of muddied waters
with our hands scrambling for safety
and the taste of filth in our mouths

we flog ourselves with the world's opinion
and go down again, choking
gasping for air under the assault of accusing eyes

but there comes a time we realize
the deed is done
and we stand before Christ
mute with longing
helpless in our regret
broken in our sorrow

He draws us to himself
and showers us with radiance
Forgiven
Restored
He lifts each one to new and holy ground

There *is* no restitution for some things done wrong
but to leave them
abandoned
at the feet of Jesus

Barbara Mitchell

"I"-Witness

Priscilla Was a Good Woman

Her name was Priscilla. Like the Priscilla of the Bible she was a good woman who loved God, knew Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour, and brought up her children to know God and to love Christ.

Her friends called her Pris - or Cilla. She was the sixth child of a poor family in the Midlands of England known as the "Black" Country because of its association with coal mining. Her father died before she was born. Her mother married again, this time to a miner, and had two more children.

Her step-father was killed in a mine accident and her mother died when Priscilla was 14. She was sent out to "service" as a nursemaid to a family of five children, in the home of a well-to-do family of business people. They owned a haberdashery, cum draper shop with a ladies ready-to-wear attached. Priscilla learned how to dress discreetly and well. She also learned to speak good colloquial English, and to be a Christian from this very fine Christian woman who was her employer and who encouraged her to go to church and to Christian Endeavour.

In 1911, Priscilla married a tall, handsome, shy man with blue eyes and curly brown hair. His name was Henry, but he was always called Harry. Harry's parents had emigrated to Canada some years before so Harry and Priscilla decided that they would too. Because Priscilla was pregnant, Harry went first, to find a job and a place for them to live.

He applied for passage on the Titanic, but due to some clerical error, his ticket did not arrive until after the Titanic had sailed. So he sailed on another White Star liner, the Megantic two weeks after the Titanic had gone down.

Harry's parents had gone west to Vancouver, so he followed. Priscilla arrived in March of 1913 and they found a little house on Commercial Drive in Vancouver. Their second child - a girl - was born on a wild windy night in October 1914. They did not have enough money to pay the next month's rent, and the landlady was going to evict them. Priscilla prayed - she always prayed when life presented difficult decisions - to the end of her days, she prayed. Harry got a job and they paid the rent.

Their third child arrived in 1916 and they moved to South Vancouver where Priscilla sent her two older children to Sunday School at St. Columba Presbyterian Church where she served for the rest of her days in many and varied ways.

Life was not always easy for them. Harry began to experience problems with his eyes. Priscilla prayed, and along came an eye surgeon that cured Harry's eye problems. He retired early from his work because of this, and his pension was meagre.

They sent one son to the RCAF and one daughter to the CWAC in World War II. The airman son returned with an English war bride and a baby son. The daughter married a New Zealand airman and the youngest son married the girl who worked next to him in the post office. Eight grandchildren came to delight Harry and Priscilla.

Priscilla died at the age of 84 in the arms of her husband, Harry. Her friends called her Pris or Cilla. I called her Mother.

Kay Berry,
Richmond, B.C.

EASTER PUZZLE

by Jim Phillips

A	X	U	D	O	R	E	H	I	B
N	R	F	Y	Q	G	L	P	L	M
O	P	I	L	A	T	E	E	C	F
M	S	G	M	H	P	A	S	E	E
I	D	R	J	A	N	K	O	T	N
S	J	V	O	A	T	Z	J	H	E
I	U	T	H	B	Y	H	H	O	R
M	D	T	N	R	O	N	E	M	Y
O	A	S	A	H	P	A	I	A	C
N	S	M	A	J	E	S	U	S	D

Caiaphas
Herod
Jesus
John
Joseph *of* Arimathea
Judas
Mary
Nathanael
Simon *of* Cyrene
Thomas
Pilate
(13 words)

World Day of Prayer - Friday, March 3, 1995

Ghana

The Earth is a House for All People

Contact local churches for further information.

Forward

In Faith

In praise of all members of the Women's Missionary Society (WD) the good news is that your dedication and devotion in 1994 resulted in a total amount of $940,907 being available to continue our work. In addition a further $200,000 was taken from our capital resources in order to meet our commitments.

The treasurers at all levels (group, presbyterial and synodical) also deserve praise for the work they do in insuring that records are maintained, funds are forwarded and encouragement is given. At least one Presbyterial treasurer reopened her 1994 account books after they had been audited in order to ensure that a further sum of nearly one thousand dollars could be forwarded to our head office bookkeeper by January 15th of the new year. Of course, that meant that the auditors had to do a further review which added to the labours of our unsung heroic volunteers. Thanks to all who concentrate on this work in our organization.

They are to do good, to be
rich in good works, generous,
and ready to share, thus
storing up for themselves the
treasure of a good foundation
for the future, so that they
may take hold of the life
that really is life.
I Timothy 6:18, 19 (NRSV)

Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Deuteronomy 26:11 (NRSV)

Recently while talking with a friend I realized how much the conversation was stretching my mind beyond its usual day-to-day experience and I thought of how remarkable it is that the studies which are available to us through the Church and the WMS offer the same mind stretching. We are brought face to face with other cultures, introduced to new thoughts and given an opportunity to see ourselves in a different light.

Another friend who had participated in a "Habitation for Humanity" project had been privileged to meet Joe Reed in Central America and was enthused at what the Presbyterian Church is accomplishing through his work. WMS really offers us up-to-date information as well as the opportunity to let others know the Good News!

Does your group have special plans for this year? Are you having a Mission Fair to let everyone know of the work being done in new congregations and established mission fields? Are you inviting friends to events and meetings which they don't always have an opportunity to attend?

Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time.

Colossians 4:5 (NRSV)

Stewardship suggests three things, time, talent and treasure. With regard to time, Paul's words in Colossians 4:5 say "make the most of every opportunity" (NIV). Talent may be seen in I Timothy 6:19 "take hold of life that is truly life" (NIV), and treasure is reflected in 2 Corinthians 8:13 "Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality" (NIV).

We have been given an abundant life and we are given an opportunity as it says in Deuteronomy 26:11 to "rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household" (NIV). A zest for the abundant life lets us GO FORWARD IN FAITH!

Marian Weldon, Treasurer

For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."

2 Corinthians 8:12-15 (NRSV)

The PCM and its Overseas Friends

by Rodger Talbot

The Presbyterian Church of Mauritius (PCM) has a partnership arrangement with three overseas churches, and one group of churches, who, among other things contribute each year to the budget and operating costs of our church. Who are these "overseas partners"? Are they simply sources of funds, or are they people? People who care and about whom we care?

The groups which fall into this category are:

- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- CEVAA (Communauté Evangélique d'Action Apostolique)
- The Presbyterian Church (USA)
- The Church of Scotland.

Our relations with The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) began about 1980 when a PCC World Mission staff member visited us with David Miller of the PCUSA. A relationship was established, and in 1982 Brian and Elizabeth Crosby, and their family were sent to Mauritius to assist with pastoral leadership and development. They have lived in Vacaos and Beau-Bassin.

The relationship symbolized by the Crosbies seemed to be a happy one. Accordingly, in the late 1980s pastor Ray Drennan and his wife Ann Vickers were sent to assist with the parishes in the north. When they returned to Canada, Rev. Bill Elliott and his wife Marie Rempel were appointed, Bill to help develop church music here.

About 1989, Dr. Evalene Thom, a Presbyterian who was a Special Education specialist in Canadian Schools was sent by the PCC to assist the Mauritian government with Special Education in Mauritius. In 1993, Rodger and Donna Talbot came to St. Columba's. Also, the PCM has welcomed seminarians from the Canadian church who have asked to do their field work requirements in our midst. Ms. Heather Jones and Ms. Elizabeth Graham have come in that capacity.

The costs for these ministries have been borne by Presbyterians in Canada. Through publications and education programs among congregations in Canada, the Canadian church tries to make the relations and connection between the people of our two churches people-to-people relations. When the Crosbies and the Elliott-Rempels and the Talbots go home for leave they are asked to spend considerable time visiting congregations to put "Mauritius" on the map for Christians in Canada. The Canadian church would like to think that the partnership is one of prayer and caring, and not simply a financial one. Women or childrens' groups that would like to correspond or exchange greetings with similar groups in Canada would likely find a welcome response.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is one of the smaller churches in Canada. They form a little larger ratio to the population than Presbyterians in Mauritius. Like us, they are experiencing a financial pinch, and have to think carefully about their responsibilities. Two of the big issues at their recent annual Assembly were: a statement on Human Sexuality, and a Confession regarding their historical attitudes toward Native People in Canada. Like the PCM, the PCC has a variety of ethnic and linguistic groups among its congregations, probably about a dozen. The business of the national church is carried on in English.

- Rodger and Donna Talbot left for Mauritius in February 1993. Rodger serves as minister of the English speaking congregation, St. Columba in Phoenix, Mauritius, also as Africa Liaison for International Ministries and PWS&D projects in Africa. The Talbots will complete their assignment in March, 1995, returning home by way of Australia.

- Reprinted from *La Seveet la Vigne (Presbyterian Church of Mauritius). July 1994*

- Rodger and Donna Talbot in Mauritius.

EMERGENCY APPEAL
Killer Quake in Kobe, Japan

Deaths may exceed 5,000, in the earthquake which struck the Kobe area of Japan January 17th. The early morning quake brought homes crashing down on sleeping families, and made short work of quake-proof modern buildings.

Injuries and losses suffered by families, businesses and industries, may never be estimable. The large Korean, Chinese, and other Asian communities were hard hit as well as the Japanese. Many Christian churches suffered damages, as did the numerous temples and shrines in Kobe. The new Canadian Academy held up well, and has become one of the many havens for the homeless. Over 80 Koreans of the total community of some 80,000 died.

The Korean Christian Church in Japan's three congregations in the area of the quake suffered little or no structural damage. Several churches of the PCC's other partner church in Japan, the United Church of Christ, have been badly damaged. The leaders and families of the Korean congregations, other than one member of Nishinomiya who was killed, are all safe, although many family homes and businesses have been destroyed or badly damaged.

Missionaries related to the KCCJ and UCCJ have all been accounted for as safe, although several of their homes were damaged.

Emergency relief taskforces organized by the KCCJ and the UCCJ, and by the National Christian Council of Japan are dealing with the immediate needs of food and water, clothing and bedding, and long-term provision of shelter and reconstruction assistance. A letter from PCC International Ministries was sent the day after the quake, assuring Korean friends of the concerns of Canadian Presbyterians, and a readiness to respond to any requests for relief assistance.

Individuals, groups and congregations who would extend a hand of neighbourly goodwill are invited to send gifts designated for KCCJ or NCCJ Earthquake Emergency Relief to The Presbyterian World Service and Development office of the Life and Mission Agency. It will be forwarded immediately for relief and reconstruction activities.

OUR READERS Write

[I must] praise all who are responsible for [Glad Tidings] as I read it from cover to cover as soon as it arrives.

I notice in many Presbyterial reports it tells of their "Sing Songs".... My dictionary gives the definition of "Sing Song" as "a drawling and monotonous tone or wearying succession of tones...repetition of similar words or tones...."

I'm sure Presbyterial singing is not monotonous. It certainly is not at [our] Presbyterial but is lively and great fun and never long enough. The word SING SONG is just not correct.

Keep up the good work...a good magazine...!

E. M. B., Kelowna, BC

Editor's Note: How right you are! Perhaps the word sing-along would be more appropriate. The Oxford dictionary does however say that a singsong is an "informal singing of well-known songs by a group of people." Oxford spells it as one word. I leave it up to you, readers. Will you be having a singsong or a sing-along?

I am enjoying the Glad Tidings more each year and am finding it very informative. I am especially enjoying the new "coloured" pictures etc. It adds a lot.

The centre pull out section is a great idea! It could be used for missionary profiles and "How to's". There should be one each publication if possible. Whether it be for prayers, or Services e.g. Thankoffering, Easter. Something we can save without having to go through years of Glad Tidings searching for that right idea, theme or poem etc.

L. H., Woodville, ON

You must be very pleased with the first of the bi-monthly Glad Tidings. The colour work is beautiful. It is so nice to have photos in colour too - for the first time. They are exceptionally sharp. It seems to me that the black and white photos are sharper than before. The entire Jan/Feb issue is very good.

J. C., Winnipeg, MB

What a wonderful cover for the Jan/Feb issue - utterly beautiful! Too bad that for this particular issue you could not have used colour photocopying - for the cover only - on your large print edition.

Happy 70th - the Logo is wonderful.

D. L., Port Elgin, ON

Congratulations on the bright, dramatic cover of your Jan/Feb issue. It's a handsome issue throughout, and a great way to celebrate the magazine's 70th anniversary.

John Stapert,
Executive Director,
Associated Church Press

Thank you so much for a very inspirational Jan/Feb issue. I am excited and encouraged by the changes and fresh ideas for more youth involvement, devotional enrichment and practical help.

M. P., Windsor, ON

A REMINDER FROM THE EDITOR:

Glad Tidings is now being published six times a year, beginning with a Jan/Feb issue. We have also increased our size from 32 to 48 pages.

This will allow us to save substantially and give our readers almost as many pages as before.

Unfortunately with this issue we return to the use of one colour along with black. A four-colour process was used in January to highlight David Rankine's artwork and our 70th Anniversary.

We hope readers will continue to let us know how you feel about the magazine. And yes, we hope to have a pull out section every issue related to program!

June 2-4, 1995
Crieff Hills Community
Conference on Global Issues

The Gospel
The Church in Europe
The Church and the United Nations
The World

Begins with registration at 5:00 p.m. Friday, and closes with lunch Sunday.

SPONSORED: by The Presbyterian Church in Canada & Crieff Hills Community.

THEMES: *Please note these are the 1994-95 Mission Study themes approved by the PCC.

Europe: • *Is the church in Europe dying?* • *What does it mean to be the church in Europe?* • *How are we affected by conflicts and tensions in Europe?*

United Nations: • *Is the UN still playing a useful role in the world?* • *Where was the church at the beginning of the UN?* • *Where is it after 50 years?* • *How does peace keeping and the UN affect your family?*

FOR: men and women interested in these topics and issues, and in sharing them locally with adults, youth and children.

FORMAT: Presentations by experienced and skilled leaders; audio- visuals; music and worship; fun, food and fellowship.

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Bible Study: "Threatened with Resurrection"

The theme of the WMS Annual Council Meeting in May 1994, *Threatened with Resurrection*, was carried over as a title for the WMS Five-Year Plan. It has appeared in every local group when a printed copy of the Five-Year Plan was received last fall. But what does this phrase mean?

The following is a bible study based on the study that we did at the Council meeting in which we explored the phrase *Threatened With Resurrection* in a search for its meaning for us. The phrase comes from a poem by Julia Esquivel who says, *It isn't the noise in the streets that keeps us from resting, my friend....* Esquivel goes on to enumerate the people who have suffered, been killed, who have disappeared and says, *What keeps us from sleeping is that they have threatened us with resurrection!*

Let us consider the biblical theme of resurrection at this time in our history when, not only our Society, but the Christian church seems to be declining in numbers and having financial difficulties. Is our response to lie down and play dead? Or are we to listen for what God is doing in our time and to recognize God's hand in the new.

Read Isaiah 43:14-21

When the Jewish people had been in exile, cut off from their homeland for two to three generations, Isaiah had a poetry reading – he delivered his oracle in a public place. His poem was prophetic.

Isaiah 43:14-16
This Lord, who is close to you and cares deeply for you has a piece of news.

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake, I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation. I am the Lord, your Holy One the creator of Israel, your King.

Thus saith the Lord – that phrase is like a formula; it is a call for the people of God to "listen".

Who is this Lord – *your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.* These are reminders to the people of Israel. This 'Lord', though holy, so holy that no one dared pronounce the name YHWH but must use the word Adonai (Lord), is not a distant, uncaring god. This 'Lord' is as close as your next of kin. This 'Lord' shares in your life as part of the family and is prepared to carry out the duty of the next of kin. In that culture at that time in history, only a member of the family could redeem a person in trouble. For example, if you had a debt which you could not pay, your next of kin was the only one who could save you from the consequences.

The people of Israel had been defeated by the armies of Babylon and taken into exile. They had suffered this exile for many years. This is the first time they have heard of the downfall of Babylon. The exiles are being called to hope. After three generations the Lord is doing something new.

- How do you feel about the idea that God is so close – like a member of your family? Should we say a caring member of the family?
- You might think that after three generations the people would have become inured to their situation. Can you imagine what some

might have thought of this looming change? Some would welcome it; some would call it nonsense; some would recognize that something was about to change and would be torn by that. Where do you think the great majority of opinion would be?

Read verses 16 and 17. These verses remind the people who this Lord is and who they are.

- Are there times when we need to be reminded of who God is and who we are? What are some of these times from your experience and/or from our history?

Isaiah 43:18a

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

- Having just reminded the people of their ancient past, why would the poet enjoin them not to remember the former things? What do you think he means by this? When can memory be a stifling factor? Why does the poet say, "Do not remember"?

Compare what part memory plays in the Esquivel poem.

What keeps us from sleeping
is that they have threatened us with resurrection!
Because at each nightfall
though exhausted from the endless inventory
of killings since 1954,
yet we continue to love life
and do not accept their death!

Isaiah 43:19a

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth...

- The prophet declares that something new is going to happen. In what sense can a fresh new thing be threatening? In what sense is "new life" demanding and threatening?
- The Good News of the prophet is grounded in the memory of the Covenant (verses 15-17). Do we sometimes forget that we are in covenant? *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

Isaiah 43:19b-21

I will make a way in the wilderness... A utopian vision is described. So what if the world has never lived up to the vision, the fact is that eventually the people of Israel did return to their homeland. The poetic language cracks through the protective shells we build around ourselves and our groups and congregations and communities. When that shell is penetrated we become aware that there are others whose protective shell has been pierced. We reach out to one another and strengthen one another to, as Esquivel says, *arrive at the goal which lies beyond death.*

- What kind of covenantal language and vision do we need as we plan for our organization – the WMS?
- Do we as members of the WMS have a *goal beyond death*?
- Is *resurrection* threatening to us?

It is not unusual to fear the "new" to be uncomfortable with the unknown. Mark tells us how the followers of Jesus responded to the new situation with which they were confronted.

Read Mark 8:31-9:1 and Mark 16:1-8

When Jesus announces his death and resurrection, Peter rebukes him. The women at the tomb went away in terror, according to Mark.

- When we look back on the story of Peter rebuking Jesus we may think of Peter as hasty and impetuous. But if we put ourselves in his shoes would we have responded in a similar way? Would we have said or thought, "No, this can never be. God won't let it happen."

The stories of the women at the tomb that we find in the four Gospels do not all agree about details. That reminds us that these books are not written as factual history but as a testimony of faith. Mark says the women, in their fear, said nothing to anyone. Obviously later on they must have told their story but at the time they were terrified.

We rejoice at the resurrection now looking back over the centuries, but imagine yourself in the situation of these women. What do you think your reaction would be to be told the man you came to embalm - who had been dead three days - was alive?

- In what way does the phrase *Threatened With Resurrection* break open our perception of ourselves? Does it give us a promise of new life?

Let us pray that, as we work through our Five-Year Plan with this theme before us, we will see the vision of what God is doing in our midst.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)

- This study was developed by Barbara Woodruff, Program Secretary. Thanks to Margaret Greig, AEC for the materials on pp 24-25 of the January/February '95 issue.

In Memory of All Abused Persons

Death (and Resurrection) of an Abused Child

There's no pain anymore
no pounding wedges driven
into the very core of being,
splintering off myriad
annes falling,
lost, colliding.

Fragments of annes grouping
into demi-annes working at
being normal, eating cornflakes
and riding a bike, then falling
apart into sparks
of milli-annes.

Instead there's rejoicing--
all flashing facets fused
together into joy
as Anne whole and triumphant
beholds Glory
and is safe.

Diane Dadian

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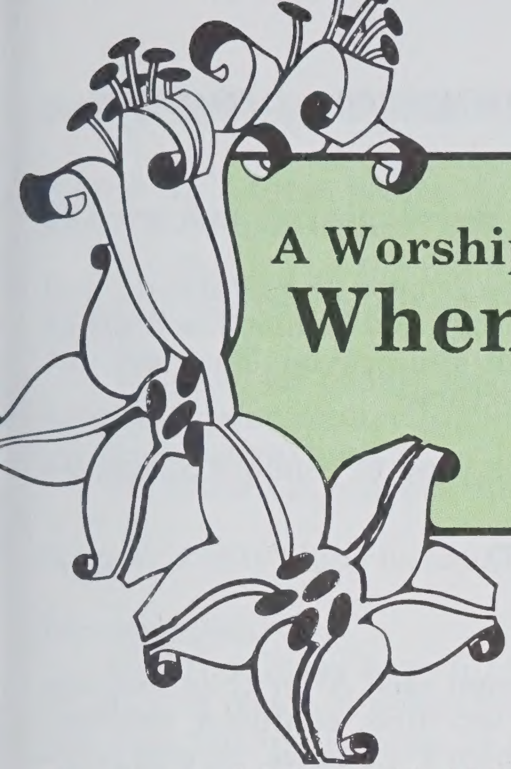


A Worship Service for the Easter Season

When Sad Times Come

by Dorothy Henderson

This service celebrates the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society. Prepare a poster as a background for this worship. Collect pictures from magazines and newspapers which portray women, men and children caring for others. These pictures might include someone soothing a crying child, a nurse or doctor attending a patient, someone carrying a wounded friend, parents sitting with a son dying of AIDS. Add a picture of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, Peter and the other apostles at the tomb.

Call to Worship:
Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

People: God's love endures forever.

Hymn: #185 Beneath the cross of Jesus (Book of Praise)

Scripture Reading: Luke 23: 50-56a

Meditation:

It was a day of incredible sadness. The people who loved Jesus had seen him die. Their hearts were breaking and they could not think of what they needed to do. Joseph of Arimathea could think of only one thing - he asked to have Jesus' body for burial. The women, their arms around each other for comfort and their heads bowed to hide their tears, walked slowly home to prepare spices and ointment for his body.

It was a day of incredible sadness. Family and friends who loved Jason had seen him die. Their hearts were breaking and they could not think of what they needed to do. He was too young to die, his body racked with pain. The women, their arms around each other for comfort, went into the kitchen, made tea and sandwiches. Jason's father and brother, his uncles and grandfather, sat close together on the porch. Grandpa lent his handkerchief to Jason's brother to wipe away his tears.

People: When sad times come to us, we need each other in our grieving.

Scripture Reading: Luke 23: 56b

Meditation:

It was a day of quiet grieving. The people who loved Jesus withdrew inside their homes for the Sabbath. They wept, rested, prayed, and tried to comfort themselves.

It was a day of quiet grieving. The funeral was over and everyone had gone back to work and school except Jason's mother and father, his brother and sister. They were quiet together. They wept and prayed. They got out the photo albums to look at Jason's high school pictures.

People: When sad times come to us, we take time to comfort ourselves before we re-enter the world.

Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 1-9

Meditation:

It was a day of intense and overwhelming emotions. After they met the angels at the tomb, the women were dazzled, terrified, confused, excited. They felt like laughing and crying. When Peter heard the news, he was overwhelmed with excitement and ran to the tomb. Then, amazed, he rushed home to tell others what he had seen.

It was a day of intense and overwhelming emotions. When football friends invited Jason's family to a "Remembering Jason BBQ" they were amazed, scared, confused, excited and comforted. They told and heard stories about Jason until they hardly knew whether to laugh or cry.

People: When sad times come to us, we need not fear our emotions.

Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 10-12

Meditation:

It was a day of doubt. The women could not believe the angels. The apostles doubted the stories of the women. But, when all had seen the empty tomb and linen clothes, they began to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.

It was a day when Jason's family doubted their own stories. They were sitting at the dinner table when, once again, they began to tell stories of Jason's escapades as a boy. Could it be that these stories were not entirely true? It did not dampen their spirits. They had loved him and they knew that, now, he was with God.

People: When we have come through sad times, we know that God has been with us.

Prayer:

God of comfort, sometimes we cannot see for tears. We do not hear the voice of Jesus asking, "Why are you crying?" It is hard to watch the suffering of someone we love. We thank you for the strength we find in ourselves in times of sadness. Help us to know that you are near. Help us to feel your care and be glad in your power.

We thank you for the women - Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary, the mother of James - who told the good news that first Easter morning. They stayed with Jesus before his death, during his suffering, and did not desert him when he was lonely and in agony.

We thank you for the exuberance of Peter and the faithfulness of the apostles. We thank you for their vibrant presence in the early days of Christianity.

We pray for people around the world who live with suffering year after year. Put your comforting arms around them, God, and let them know that you are always there.

We ask these prayers through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Hymn: #201: Thine be the Glory (Book of Praise)

Benediction:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Romans 15:13)

He has risen · alleluia

A Prayer for Daily Life

by Kathleen G. Soucoup

Heavenly Father, you have given us the freedom of will to think and to act, as well as the knowledge of the consequences of our thoughts and actions.

We seek now your guidance by praying for the honesty required to treat others as we would ourselves be treated. Grant us, God, the strength to not only live our lives fully in your service through the many Christian organizations available to us, but to do so in the daily routine of our lives.

We pray, too, for your support when we are faced with hardships or sorrow. Sometimes, though, we need to have our spirits stabbed wide awake. When we are tempted to be dull in spirit or morose in sorrow, remind us that joy is ours for the asking.

We offer up our thanks to you for the joy that is so accessible if we will but avail ourselves of the blessings of Christ. If we but believe, your burden, Lord, is light, and your guiding hand is sure. You have been faithful when we have not.

Give us quiet minds, inner peace and a sense of your presence. We entreat you to guide us in the days ahead and heighten our awareness of that which is good, fine and true, and in accord with the example set by Jesus Christ. Amen

Dear Friends

**Rose Janson,
c/o CCAP, Relief and Development,
P. O. Box 6,
Ekwendeni, Malawi
November 1994**

Muli uli? (How are you?) ...I have to tell you more about church here. As you know, the majority of the population in Malawi is Presbyterian. Two weeks ago, the centennial of the Livingstonia Mission took place in Livingstonia. A wonderful missionary from Scotland (Hamish McIntosh) gave one of the sermons. We were packed into the church for five hours! There were crowds outside, with loud speakers so they could participate. The president of the country (who is a Muslim) was a guest of honour, and brought the Church a present. He arrived in a helicopter.

Our farm project contributed many eggs, onions, and chickens. It was very exciting to be a part of such a historic event. I liked [the fact] that various churches (Roman Catholic, etc.) and all the political parties were represented. There was a strong message, and plea, for unity, and for transcending differences, to help all Malawians, [and] the whole country.

Last Sunday, in Blantyre, we heard Hamish McIntosh preach again. To get into that beautiful church, you have to be there about 20 minutes early, line up and almost push, to get a seat. Can you believe it? And here, in Ekwendeni this morning, Carol, my housemate, and I arrived a couple of minutes late for the chitumbaka service at 10, and we could not find a place, even on the floor, only outside.

Despite all this interest and support, the Church, like its peoples, is very poor. It seems that most foreign donors want to contribute to drilling of wells, and to hospitals to fight AIDS, but not to the costs of the more mundane administration and maintenance of projects or to church costs. There does not seem to be a tradition of a congregation supporting its own budget and minister. All the ministers are paid, from the Synod Office (the equivalent of about $60 Canadian a month).

Sad to say, even more so than in Canada, women, though they are the most active in supporting their churches, have no place in the power structure or in decision making, only serving faithfully, behind the scenes.

Well, it's time to collect the eggs (one of my jobs), and pick some tomatoes (just think - we have sun ripened tomatoes all the time!).

Thank you for your prayers, and for thinking of me.

Sincerely,
Rose

**Donald W. MacKay,
Trinity Theological College.
P. O. Box 97,
Umuahia,
Abia State, Nigeria
October 1994**

Since my last communication, much has occurred. My work remains the same - teaching Pastoral Theology subjects and a course on Ecumenism at Trinity College as well as acting as the college chaplain. The work is really a full time job - and more! It is very fulfilling and one has a sense of accomplishment, especially at the end of a course with assignments (many) and examinations marked; and at graduation...knowing you have been part of those sent forth to the Vineyard. This year's graduates numbered 92 - the largest class so far.

The situation in Nigeria is still somewhat confusing. A brief recap would say that the Military did hand over to an interim government in August '93 (not an elected party). By November the Military took over in all areas from Local government to National, with Sanni Abacha as the Head. Since then, a constitutional conference has been inaugurated to yet again make a proposal to return to an elected government. It's still meeting. In June the candidate that claims he won the June '93 election declared himself President - and was eventually arrested. In July, the petroleum industry went on strike - drying up gasoline, kerosene, etc. The price of the small amount of petrol available was in orbit, and so on. The strike collapsed with government pressure in early September. There was a noticeable increase in prices of all items - in keeping with the falling value of the 'naira'. The effect of the more than 300% increase in petrol is still to be fully felt.

The most one can say of our current situation is that it still is not very clear. The Minister of Finance, an Ohafia Presbyterian, was removed this week. It will take time to see if the naira will stabilize - and thus prices (as well as the political climate). Please remember us all, in prayers, particularly those who suffer the most in these situations.

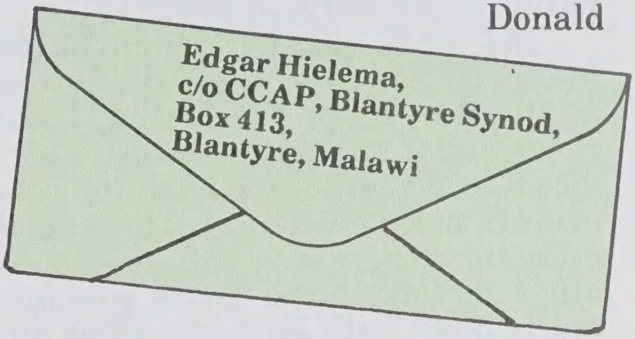
We look to the future with hope but also realistically that much change is needed to allow for a return to a good development and growth in this land of great promise and leadership in Africa.

1995 will mark the end of my present assignment in Nigeria - which means a time of reflection and consideration.

Please remember us here in Nigeria and the decision-planning on needs to do in these months.

May all of the Joy, Hope and Peace of the birth of the Christ be yours....

With love,
Donald



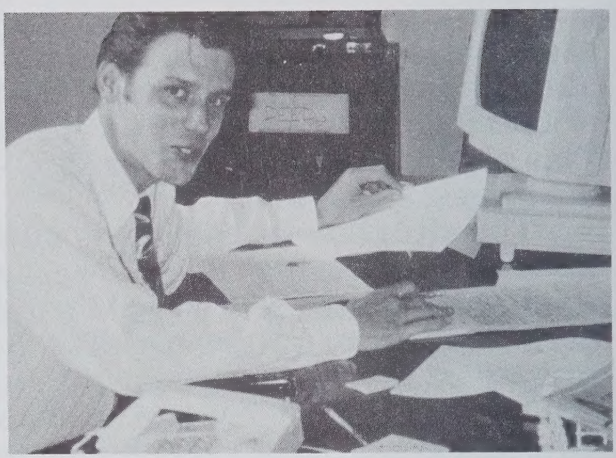
Edgar Hielema has been working for over a year with the Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian as legal counsel to the Synod, and involved in the area of human rights. Recently, in Canada on deputation, he expressed the following thoughts:

Malawi is a country vastly different from Canada and the chief reason for this difference is disparity in wealth. Whereas the vast majority of Malawians do not even participate in the monetary economy meaning that they do not earn or spend any money whatsoever - every Canadian makes some money and is assured of a basic standard of living. Whereas over 70% of Malawians cannot read or write, every Canadian has the opportunity to become literate in at least one of Canada's official languages. Whereas Malawi has a total secondary school population of only 30,000 in a nation of more than nine million inhabitants, every Canadian has the opportunity to get a high school education. Whereas those Malawians fortunate enough to be middle class income earners are under siege from the killer disease AIDS, the Canadian middle class is large and prosperous, and receives the best medical care in the world at no direct cost. Malawi has been ranked by the Population Crisis Committee as an area of extreme human suffering; a few years ago, Canada was ranked by the United Nations as the single best nation in the world in which to live.

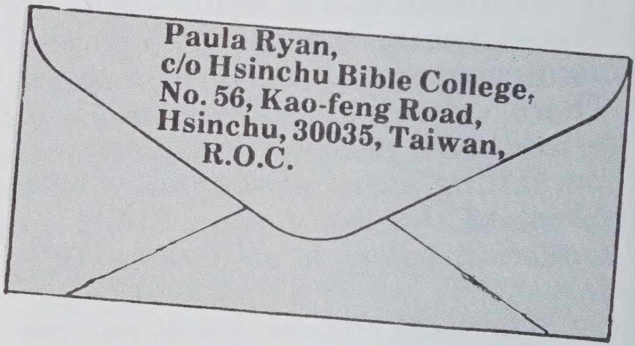
My work at the Synod helps Malawians in two ways. By acting as the lawyer for the Synod, I am rendering it an otherwise costly service free of charge, and enabling it to operate more efficiently. This added efficiency increases the ability of other persons in the Synod who formerly dealt with land and other administrative matters to focus clearly on the primary mandates of the church to minister to people's spiritual, educational, health, and often material, needs. By acting as legal counsel to other religious and human rights organisations, I am helping to facilitate their goals as well.

The second way in which my work helps Malawians is by helping them to help themselves. Human rights education is designed to empower Malawians to demand respect from their government by informing Malawians that they are entitled to such respect by virtue of being human. As well, encouraging Malawians to talk about their past culture of repression may help another such culture from taking root in the future. All of these things will nurture a society where people are allowed to live and grow and create in the image of God, as He made us to do.

Edgar Hielema's appointment has been renewed for a second year. In 1995 he will be taking steps to be called to the Malawi bar as a legal practitioner. This will enable him to deal effectively with some of the larger commercial tenants of the Synod, and to save the Synod its legal fees by processing leases and other documents which are legally required to be prepared by a licensed practitioner. He will also expand his role as ongoing legal counsel for organizations affiliated with the Synod, and for members of the Synod who have suffered human rights abuses in the past.



- Edgar Hielema



Paula Ryan,
c/o Hsinchu Bible College,
No. 56, Kao-feng Road,
Hsinchu, 30035, Taiwan,
R.O.C.

In her *Taiwan Tribune*, October, 1994, Paula Ryan reports on her many interesting experiences in Taiwan.

The first was her attendance at the Sunrise Ceremony at the Confucian Temple to commemorate Teacher's Day. The ceremony is held in recognition of Confucius who is thought to be the greatest of Chinese teachers. Paula was the only foreigner present at the ceremony. The most exciting moment, she says, was when the huge temple doors were thrown open, supposedly opened only once a year. After the ceremony, each person was given a bag with a few boar hairs in it, supposedly to give one wisdom. Following are more excerpts from Paula's long and very newsy letter.

This month has been a busy one but we have also had three national holidays. Our first was Double Tenth, when we celebrated the 83rd anniversary of the Republic of China. As it happened, Double Tenth (Tenth Month, Tenth Day) coincided this year with Canadian Thanksgiving! This meant that we had Thanksgiving as a holiday and I was blessed to share this occasion with a group of 28 Canadians gathered at the McLean's home in Taichung.

I have really settled into a routine now that classes are in full swing here at the Bible College. I am teaching seven subjects for the English Department - Freshman Conversation, Sophomore Conversation, Sophomore Composition, Junior Creative Writing, Junior & Senior Bible Reading (Isaiah), Senior Vocabulary Building & Reading Skills, and Senior Business English. The course load is considered unusually heavy as generally the maximum would be five.

The Sophomore Class asked me to be their staff advisor for their Class Fellowship nights which means that I spend an evening with them once a week for conversation or activities. One night this month they came to my apartment and cooked supper. They prepared traditional Taiwanese food and it was a special joy for me to have eleven dinner guests and hear so many voices and so much laughter in my lonely rooms.

Every now and then what I have called "mystery fruit" appears on my desk. Sometimes when I arrive at the office in the morning there will be a grapefruit or an orange or some other food item on my desk. They are always left anonymously, hence my term "mystery fruit". Apparently, students often do little things like this for teachers. It always brightens my day - although nothing brightens it quite like coming in and finding mail from home!

Until October 20, the daily temperature was still reaching upwards of 84F and one day was over 90. On the 20th the weather changed due to a cold front and the temperature dropped to 74. I sighed with relief and, for the first day since my arrival in Taiwan in August, felt comfortable all day.

October marked my first real experience with an earthquake which quickly overshadowed the brief rumbles I felt in Nova Scotia! It was just after nine one morning and we were in the middle of Bible Reading class when suddenly the lectern was rattling and the floor was rumbling under my feet. I looked up and my students all said in unison, "Earthquake!". The windows rattled, the lights flickered and the floor almost seemed to buckle under my feet. It seemed to last an eternity but was probably not even 30 seconds long.

Although typhoon season was considered to be over, Typhoon Seth hit with a vengeance on northern Taiwan on Double Tenth cancelling the celebration ceremonies for the first time ever.

Thanksgiving weekend I went to Changhua to spend the weekend with Joy Randall. Joy took me to Pakuashan, a mountain park in the city where there is a 22 metre high statue of Buddha. This park is a favorite place in the early morning for Taichichuan (shadow boxing).

On Sunday, October 23, I was invited to attend a double ordination at Li-U-Tan Church near Sanyi. The ordination was of Chu Li-Chuan (Julie, the head of the English

Department at the college) and her husband, Lin Hong-Yu. Julie's ordination is especially significant because there are only about 60 women ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

Some days I feel as though I should have taken an exterminator's course before leaving Canada. Now and then I have to go on "Pest Control" when new and unwanted species decide to move in with me. Lately, the bane of my existence has been an army of carpenter ants. Unfortunately, carpenter ants do not build things. They eat wood.

If I only had $100NT for every time someone has asked me that question "Are you married?" I would be very rich. And if I had $200NT for every time that question has been followed by, "Do you have a boyfriend?" I would be even more wealthy! For whatever reason, everyone is extremely curious about everyone else's marital status. Many of them also believe if you are not married, they should find a husband or wife for you. I keep telling them marriage is not God's plan for everyone...but I don't think I have convinced them yet.

Please remember us at the Bible College in your prayers.

With love and prayers,
Paula

Margaret and Jake Vanderzweerde,
c/o Helen Macdonald Memorial School,
C.P. Compound, Gwalior Road,
Jhansi, U.P. 284003, India
December 1994

This morning at 6:10 a.m. Jake and I situated ourselves on the roof terrace of our little hotel and anxiously awaited the rising of the sun behind us, knowing that the mountain range we were facing would be bathed in splendour and the spectacle we were about to witness would be unequalled, anywhere. Pkhara is located north of Kathmandu at about 7,000 feet above sea level. The Anapurna range in the Himalayans, which we faced, is 26,000 feet (approximately) at its highest point.

Just before 6:15 the golden rays of the not yet visible sun kissed the peaks and turned them a golden hue. God's miraculous light show was about to begin. Slowly, the grey curtain of night was drawn up, revealing the magnificent snow capped peaks, the grey slopes and the foothills below. As more of the sun's rays touched the mountains they began to glow, like precious jewels, and seemed to be pulsating in response to the light. We were awestruck at the wonder of it all. How great is our God!

With that experience fresh in our minds we set off for the day, visiting a leprosy hospital and training centre. Here we spoke to doctors, all of them expatriates, and observed them in their work of healing ministry, curing leprosy, restructuring limbs, fitting prosthesis, and then encouraging them for retraining. The hospital is small, but very clean and bright. It is built around a courtyard just bursting with plants and flowers: poinsettias and chrysanthemums the size of dinner plates, together with delicately scented smaller varieties that I could not identify. It is a place of light and love, but above all it is a place of God's Light and Love extended.

After we toured the hospital we visited the training centre and were amazed at what people can be taught to do, lacking fingers and sometimes complete hands. They were making doilies, greeting cards, embroidery, wood and leather work and are also taught to weave. We praise and thank God that there are people here who have committed their lives to do this work with the "outcasts of society". Grace abounds.

The leaders of the Nepali Christian Church shared with the members of the Board that they are looking to us not so much for funding but for help in training leadership. There are pastors at each major congregation, but there are also many "house churches" in remote areas where they have no leadership, and no leadership models.

An exciting event took place in Nepal between October 16 and 21st. A congress, called AD 2000, brought together 1100 delegates from different churches and para-church organizations from all the regions of Nepal. They worshipped and shared together as they studied the prophet Nehemiah. As God used Nehemiah to mobilize the people and the King to accomplish great things, so they believe Jesus will build His Church if together they are willing to be His instruments. Everyone agreed that the young people need to be encouraged, trained, and sent out. The membership is also getting younger. More and more young people and young families are accepting Christ as their Saviour.

When we arrived in India in November, the first thing on the ever-growing agenda was to attend the CNI's Consultation on the Future of the Church's Health Ministry. This consultation was attended not only by representatives of overseas partners and donors, but also by many physicians who are heads of hospitals, nurses involved in teaching, and also community health directors.

One of the doctors told me a story, which was later confirmed by his superior, about the conditions at his hospital. One of the things he said was this: "We have many patients with head injuries in our area. When I need to get into their skull I have nothing but a rusty old surgical drill, dating from before 1947, and some screwdrivers to work with." That was just one example. I have resolved to visit and see for myself how great the needs are and I hope to share with you at a later date.

At present we are in Jhansi, visiting Diana Wadsworth at the H.M. Inter College and the Margaret Leask Memorial English School. It was wonderful to see everyone again, especially the children of whom we have become very fond.

Here at Jhansi it was great to see the progress made since we left last March. The new school, newly opened, the classrooms are furnished and in use. The greatest need at the school at the moment is a new principal for the Margaret Leask Memorial School. Please, make that priority prayer?

Margaret and Jake

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LENTEN AND EASTER RESOURCES

G5303 - KNEELING IN JERUSALEM - Large print edition *by Ann Weems*. Westminster/John Knox Press. 1993. Seventy-one inspiring poems which will enrich your Lenten and Easter season. **$14.75**

G4447 - AN EASTER PEOPLE: Family Devotional Activities for Lent and Easter *by Debbie Trafton O'Neal*. Augsburg. 1986. "But the spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self control." This text from Galatians 5:22 is the basis for this devotional book for families. **$7.25**

G5618 - THE ASCENT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD: Daily Reflections for the Journey of Lent *by Edward Hays*. Forest of Peace Publishing. 1995. The Mountain is a universal symbol of the presence of God. Hays shares with readers a collection of parables, stories and prayers for our journey. **$15.95**

G5609 - NEW LIFE GOOD NEWS BIBLE T.E.V. 2nd Edition, The Bible Societies/Harper Collins. 1994. This hardcover edition has full colour illustrations, a word list, index of important subjects and even a reading plan. A fine Easter gift. **$14.95**

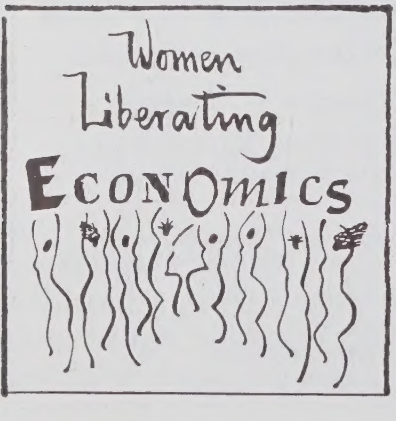
G5619 - WHAT'S IN A WORD? *by David Winter*. Bible Reading Fellowship. Forty words of Jesus that could change your life. Each weekday in Lent the author helps us investigate an important word. Each Sunday one of the "I AM..." sayings of Jesus is considered, culminating with "I am the resurrection and the life" on Easter Sunday. **$17.95**

C0199 - ROBINSON RABBIT, WHAT DO YOU HEAR? *by Rebecca Laird. Illustrated by Joe Boddy*. Augsburg Fortess. 1990. "A heartwarming tale of relationships, acceptance and God-given gifts" that can be read to young children. **$7.25**

Y2207 - WE LOVE TO TELL THE STORY, Easter Sunrise Service for Youth *by Joann H. Hary*, CSS Publishing Co. 1994. This service, written for youth to present, features the choral reading of scriptures and singing of hymns. **$5.25**

G3266 - LAST CHANCE, The final week of Jesus' life *by James Taylor*. Wood Lake Books. 1989. A Lenten devotional guide of daily readings which also includes full lesson plans for study groups. **$11.95**

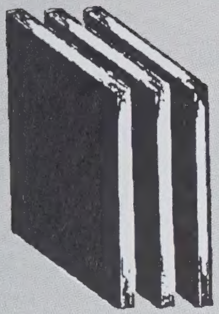
RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE WMS BOOK ROOM (see page 35 for ordering information.)



A kit for women who want to understand and speak about the experience of being on the economic margins in their community and in Canada.

Women Liberating Economics provides tools for women to analyze their daily experiences and to act to bring about economic equality for women. The kit gathers up the learnings from regional workshops and a national gathering as well as the experience of the Ecumenical Task Force on the Feminine Face of Poverty in working as a collective of church and non-church women.

Cost: $14.00 + $2.00 postage & handling. Order from: **The Task Force on the Feminine Face of Poverty, 40 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, ON M4T 1M9. Phone (416) 921-7759 ext. 30. Fax (416) 921-7478.**



BOOKS

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GOD: (n) THE GREATEST USER OF CAPITAL LETTERS: A Modern Churchgoer's Dictionary *by Andrew Jensen. Published by Wood Lake Books, 1994. Price $9.95.*

I came across this book by accident, and by the title assumed it was going to be a typical, dry, introductory guide to church and worship. I was intrigued that it had been written by a Presbyterian minister from London. I opened it at random, and read: "Bazaar: Most churches are, at least until you get to know them." After I finished laughing, I realized I had discovered a true gem of a book.

The humour in this book is witty and insightful, blending a sense of fun with a unique view of church life. Through the definitions you meet an author who both loves the faith and understands the weaknesses of the institutional church. Who hasn't sat through an annual meeting that resembles Jensen's definition: "A regular event involving complaining about the past year and making impossible predictions about the coming year."

This book will make a wonderful addition to anyone's library, and will go a long way to dispel the image of Presbyterians as too-serious people.

Finally, as someone involved with Christian Education, I got a special chuckle out of this one: "Overhead Projector: A teaching aid that has become a great labour saving device. It takes material that is clear and transparent, and ensures that it goes over everyone's head. Theologians take years to learn how to do this."

Marie Coltman

WESTERN WITNESS: Presbyterians in The Area of The Synod of Manitoba, 1700-1885 *by Dr. James Marnoch. Published by Watson & Dwyer Publishing, Winnipeg, 1994. Price $16.95.*

From fur traders to politicians Presbyterians were involved in the early development of Western Canada. Readers of this 128 page book may be surprised to learn of the extent of their activity during this period. Marnoch has done a fine job in recounting the actions and influence of Presbyterians. The record begins with hundreds of Presbyterians scattered across the prairies working for the fur trading companies and culminates with the establishment of Manitoba College in Winnipeg and the training of students for ministry within the Presbyterian Church.

The struggles of Lord Selkirk, a Presbyterian, to colonize the new country are described in some interesting detail as is the tenacity of the early settlers to retain their Presbyterian form of worship and doctrine while waiting thirty-nine years for a minister of their own denomination. It outlines the efforts of the people to make use of the first piece of Presbyterian property in Western Canada and reports the number of people who attended the first Presbyterian service west of the Great Lakes. This may be a bit of a surprise.

Early church extension, education, agriculture and evangelization are reported as part of the witness of the settlers. Such witness reached out in mission to the Indians on the prairies, expanded more and resulted in the appointment of a Superintendent of Missions.

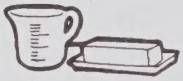
For the most part Marnoch has concentrated his writing on the southern Manitoba area in its early days. His research has been good. A less intense effort was made in describing the mission to the Indians and passing comment was made to Presbyterian witness in British Columbia. His style of writing makes it easy and enjoyable to read.

This book should be a valuable addition to the record of Presbyterianism in Western Canada. It should also elicit a sense of gratitude for the determination, tenacity and foresight of those early Presbyterians. The book is well worth securing.

George A. Johnston

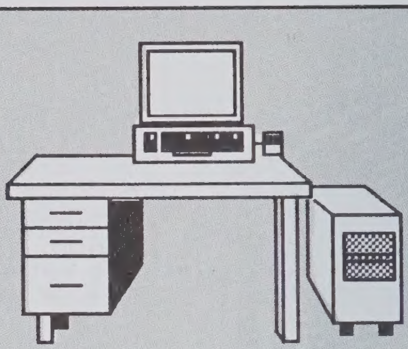
Recipe for a Happy Day

1 cup friendly words
2 cups (heaping) understanding
2 tsp. (heaping) time and patience
Pinch of warm personality
Dash of humour



Measure words carefully. Add cups of understanding. Use generous amounts of time and patience. Keep temperature low - do not boil. Add dash of humour and a pinch of warm personality. Season to taste with spice of life.

Serve in individual moulds.



Circulation News

As of January 30 nine groups have still not returned their subscription lists. They have been contacted by phone or letter/renewal forms. Following up on groups and individual subscribers like this can be costly and time consuming. Hopefully by the time this issue is published, we will have heard from these groups.

Sometimes, a group will say they are no longer subscribing and subscribers are told to send in their own subscriptions; or the group disbands and does not let us know. This is not very helpful because we then have to contact these people to find out whether they still wish to receive the Glad Tidings on an individual basis.

It is important that we receive the subscription list by the deadline of November 1, because we need the information on the list in order to plan for the next calendar year. It takes approximately two months to have any changes/additions processed. It is also costly if we have to send magazines to persons whom we have not heard from.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

In the World

ECUMENICAL DECADE VISITORS

A World Council of Churches team recently visited representatives of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, one of 26 teams visiting churches in more than 20 countries. The visits have centered on the response churches are making to the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women, 1988-1998.

Discussion topics range from economic issues and women's participation in church and society, to violence and racism directed specifically against women.

The visitors to Canada included Ms. Eunice Leite of Portugal, Rev. Finca Bongani of South Africa, Rev. Hans Ucko of Sweden, and Ms. Janet Campbell of Vancouver.

Our Church's representatives reported that the General Assembly had designated the ecumenical decade as the denomination's mission study in 1992-93. We had also celebrated the 25th anniversary of women's ordination as elders and ministers as part of our Church's decade-related activities.

The meeting with Canadian Presbyterian representatives was at the denominational office at 50 Wynford Drive in North York, Ont. It included the Moderator of the 120th General Assembly, Rev. George Vais; Assembly Clerk Tom Gemmell and Deputy Clerk Barbara McLean; Barbara Woodruff of the Women's Missionary Society (Western Division); and Margaret Henderson, Richard Fee and C. Joyce Hodgson of the denomination's Life and Mission Agency.

They reported that ecumenical work, including the solidarity decade, faces severe financial limitations because of decreasing contributions to the national and international programs of most denominations. In our case, contributions to *Presbyterians Sharing...* seem not to be keeping pace with a year ago.

The World Council's team in Canada visited Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

MIDDLE EAST CHURCH LEADER REPLACED

Limassol, Cyprus 18 November (ENI) - Gabriel Habib, the general secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches, was replaced on 18 November in a dramatic vote behind closed doors, following three days of intense politicking at the MECC's sixth general assembly.

Habib, who belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and has held the MECC post since 1977, was replaced by Riad Jarjour, who has been associate general secretary of MECC for eight years and belongs to the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon. Jarjour is well regarded for his previous work for MECC.

Jarjour's wife, Roseangela, is general secretary of the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches in the Middle East.

Many MECC staff members expressed shock and sadness after the news of Habib's replacement. After Jarjour was elected by the MECC general assembly, winning 62 of the 91 votes cast, some of those present said that Habib had been a good administrator, but it was time for a member of a different church to hold the influential post.

The Middle East Council of

Churches has 27 member churches, including Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican Churches.

JULIA ESQUIVEL HONOURED

Berne, 5 December (ENI) - Julia Esquivel, a prominent pastor in Guatemala, who was persecuted by successive dictatorial regimes in Guatemala, and subjected to death threats because of her fight for justice, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Berne, capital of Switzerland.

The award was presented by the dean of the university's theological faculty and was supported by the Coordinating Committee for Ecumenism, Mission and Development Aid (OEME), a Protestant organisation promoting solidarity with the people of the South.

The honorary doctorate, the most important award the university can make, was conferred on 4 December. Three reasons were mentioned by the University of Berne for the conferring of the honorary doctorate: "...her tireless struggle for justice in Guatemala, her efforts to marry ancient Indian traditions and her vision of theology and liturgy, and to honour a poet of theology who has shown, with spiritual lyricism, the path of a people, their suffering and their destiny." Esquivel authored the book "Threatened with Resurrection." - Sergio Ferrari

REPENTANCE FOR MISSION'S PAST MISTAKES

Geneva, 9 November (ENI) - The planning committee for a World Council of Churches conference on world mission and evangelism, to be held in the city of Salvador in north-eastern Brazil in two years time, has decided that repentance for some aspects of Christianity's missionary past should be an important aspect of the 1996 gathering.

"There is quite an acknowledgement that the history of [Christian] mission is one of light and shadow," Ana Langerak, an executive officer of the World Council of Churches, told ENI after a meeting of the conference planning committee in Hamburg, Germany.

"The shadow has elements of not always being open to receive the gospel witness of other cultures," said Langerak, adding that it was vital to consider the relationship between gospel and culture at the 1996 conference, which will have the theme "Called to one hope: the Gospel in Diverse Cultures".

CAMPAIGN FOR 'GUN-FREE SOUTH AFRICA'

Johannesburg, 16 December (ENI) - A campaign to reduce the number of guns circulating in South Africa was launched with a voluntary "hand-in" of weapons on 16 December, a public holiday to mark the country's "Day of Reconciliation".

The "Gun-Free South Africa Campaign," endorsed by all the country's major religious leaders, aims to persuade both the owners of licensed firearms, usually white, and unlicensed weapons, many of whom live in black townships, to surrender their weapons.

But Canon Sheena Duncan of Johannesburg, one of the campaign organisers, is disappointed at the lack of material help from churches and big business.

"It is a sad fact that there is more excitement about this campaign in secular and community organisations than there is in the church," she wrote in a report for the Church of the Province of Southern Africa's communications network.

A leaflet issued by the campaign's Cape Town branch said that apart from unlicensed firearms, there are 3.5 million licensed guns in South Africa.

It said that handing-in of guns on December 16 would happen at places of worship around the country: "All weapons will be disabled immediately and then destroyed at a public ceremony. The campaign also seeks to encourage the growth of a gun-free South Africa by having children hand in their toy guns and war toys."

MANDELA AND CABINET TAKE SALARY CUTS

JOHANNESBURG (APS) November 7 - South African President Nelson Mandela, his cabinet and certain other top officials will take salary cuts of up to 20 per cent as part of a government austerity drive aimed at freeing more funds for the country's reconstruction, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki announced here on October 30.

In his announcement, Mbeki unveiled a plan to restructure government finances that includes the salary cuts, a shake-up of the civil service and possible privatisation of state assets.

Mbeki, acting for Mandela while the president was on vacation, said the measures would free more funds for the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), the five-year plan aimed at overcoming the legacy of racial discrimination, signalling a "bold and imaginative shift" in the government's approach to the role of the public sector in the RDP.

Mbeki also announced that a radical restructuring of the civil service would be undertaken and the sale of state assets, such as South African Airways and certain utilities, could be worked out in order to reduce the state debt burden.

The Johannesburg-based Sunday Times believes that the plan could see the retrenchment of up to 200,000 civil servants. [APS]

Where Do Canadians Get Their Values?

Dr. Donald Posterski, World Vision Canada's Vice President for National Ministries does in-depth surveys of Canadian attitudes and some of the findings are of significance for Christian leaders. The surveys indicate that:

57% of Canadians feel values and ethics are a matter of personal opinion. What is alarming is that 49% of church attenders feel the same. (Rampant individualism has so invaded the Church that the individual, not the Bible or the Church, decides what is right and what is wrong.)

72% of Canadians feel all religions are equally valid.

57% of church attenders and 45% of Evangelicals feel the same. (The lack of Christian understanding is alarming.)

76% of Canadians surveyed considered themselves Christians.

Birthdays

Overseas Staff

April

5 - Justin Assaly, Jerusalem
9 - Cathy McMullen, India
30 - Maxine Taylor, Nepal

May

1 - Jake Vanderzweerde, India
1 - Andrew Taylor, Nepal
26 - Pauline Brown, India
27 - David Onuoha, Nigeria
28 - Jane Paul, Zaire

In the Society

SYNODICAL

The Semi-Annual Meeting of **Alberta** Synodical was held October 14, 15, 1994. Following a delicious pot luck supper on the Friday evening, Synodical President, Norma Proudfoot, led a worship service based on John 12-24.

Lois Snider-Norby presented the video "The World at 7" and members participated in a question and answer period.

Saturday morning began with a devotional by Calgary-Macleod followed by brainstorming on *Who We are, What do we do, Why are we doing it* and *For whom.*

Groups discussed ways to effectively manage the Province without a Synodical.

Business followed lunch, and AEC Anja Oostenbrink closed the meeting with worship.

PRESBYTERIAL

At the **Kamloops** Presbyterial Fall Rally reported on page 26 of the December 1994 issue, Rev. Shannon Bell-Wyminga, full time minister at Cariboo Church, took part in the program through her gift of music.

Westminster Presbyterial held a Christmas luncheon at Knox Church, New Westminster, B.C. President Nancy Bell welcomed everyone.

After lunch Kay Berry read some inspiring Christmas poetry and prose from Glad Tidings. Helen Petrunia led in the singing of Christmas carols, followed by Elizabeth Mabee of St. Colomba Church giving a beautiful rendition of some parts of the Messiah, accompanied by Carolyn Hart. Nancy Bell closed the meeting with prayer.

The Fall Rally of **Vancouver Island** Presbyterial was held September 20, 1994 at Knox Church, Sooke B.C., the theme *Far Away Mission begins at home*. Rev. Leslie Barclay welcomed everyone. Mildred Barclay and Edith Maugham led the opening worship.

Presbyterial President, Abbie Thompson, welcomed the group. Synodical President Laurie Jackson brought greetings from Synodical.

Nettie McGovern, delegate to Council, and reported on the proceedings.

The morning on program consisted of a quiz done by Sooke

Pictured below is the 1994 Executive of the Korean WMS in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, taken at their first study seminar with Rev. Peter Han, "Understanding the Second Generation".

Left to right: Ahn, Jung Hee - Vice President, Kitchener-Waterloo Korean Presbyterian; Song, Bok Hee - President, Bethany, Toronto; Lee, Hee Ryul - Treasurer, Korean Presbyterian, Toronto; Min, Soon Hee - Secretary, All People's, Toronto; and Hong, Shin Hee - Executive Director, Metropolitan, Toronto.

members. Appropriately dressed, they convincingly portrayed four women in the Bible speaking on their role in history. A sing-song followed, led by Win Thomas and Ruth Smyth on piano.

After lunch put on by the Sooke Ladies Guild, Betty-Ann Holland led a skit entitled "Radio Talk Show" based on four new communities of faith the WMS has chosen as its focus for 1994.

- Rev. Leslie Barclay presents Abbie Thompson, President of Sooke, local WMS, Life Membership Certificate and WMS pin.

Guest speaker Rev. Leslie T. Barclay, spoke on *Far Away Mission begins at home* - Mission to the North, an account of the four years he was appointed Presbyterian Missionary to the Northwest Territories. He noted the area served was 1.3 million square miles with a population of 57,000. Win Thomas thanked Mr. Barclay.

There was a display of NWT soapstone carvings, wall hangings, beadwork, clothing and utensils.

A duet "In the Garden" was sung by Hazel Sheppard and Elizabeth Lonsdale. The meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction.

On September 15, 1994, the WMS of **Barrie** Presbyterial were honoured to have Rev. Dr. George Vais take the communion service at the Fall Rally, held at Camp Oak-A-Lea. Dr. Vais and his wife Faith were guests for lunch and were able to meet many former friends from the area.

- Pictured here with Marie Schandlen (left), president of Barrie Presbyterial and Audrey Little, guest speaker, is Dr. Vais.

LOCAL

As a way of introducing the mission study on Africa the Presbyterian Women of **St. Paul's** Church, **Sault Ste. Marie**, Ontario presented "A Tour of Africa" to the women of the congregation on November 9, 1994.

The evening included a story about Anansi, the Spider, a favourite folktale subject. Ten countries were explored through sharing of information and displays including clothing from Ghana and Nigeria, an unusual portable chair and colourful prints from Malawi.

The melodious "Bantu Echo Song" and the haunting "Malawian Child", written and sung by Margaret Moncrieff, were a part of the worship service. Tantalizing treats included banana fritters, ginger beer and stuffed monkey. It proved to be an informative and enjoyable evening.

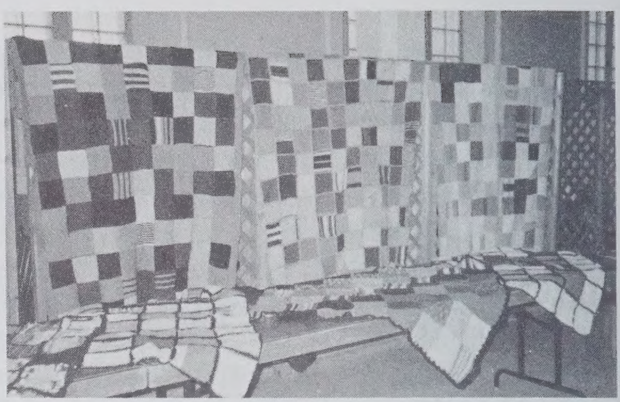
An International Night was held in **St. Andrew's** Church, **Saskatoon**, Saskatchewan on October 30, 1994 by the two WMS groups. To acquaint the congregation with the purpose, structure and mission of the WMS, areas where Presbyterian Church in Canada personnel are working in cooperation with indigenous churches were displayed. Guests were welcomed by Margaret Dawson, president of Hildur Hermanson Auxiliary, who also presented the prizes later.

As people entered, they were each given a sheet with questions which could be answered by studying the displays. When time was called, Bernice Shih, the quiz master and organizer read off the answers. Articles from India, Bangladesh and Kenya, obtained from a Self-Help Craft Shop were given as prizes to those with the most correct answers.

Non-WMS people, including elders, Women's League members and young people were involved in the program which consisted of musical items, highland dancing and a panel fashioned after *Reach for the Top*. Panel members were given scripts with prepared answers to the questions about WMS mission outreach asked by the moderator, Rev. Jim McKay. Lunch consisted of ethnic finger foods from Scotch oatcakes and Dutch cheeses to Chinese fortune cookies.

At the November 1994 meeting of **St. Giles** WMS **Ottawa,** Ontario, Dorothy Nekrassoff, President of the Ottawa Presbyterial was welcomed as guest speaker. Her interesting talk was enjoyed by all.

Eight full-size knitted blankets were given to Harmony House, a home for battered women and their children, and eight knitted lap-robes were given to The Perley Hospital for use by their wheelchair patients. Two more blankets were given to Interval House in December. These warm and colourful blankets were lovingly put together by WMS members from 5-inch knitted squares donated by the WMS members of the congregation and friends. The group was surprised to find out that they had used over 2,000 squares.



- Just a sample of the knitted blankets and lap-robes made by the St. Giles WMS, Ottawa.

Mary Janet Grove (nee Reid) died on November 9, 1994. Born in Dunvegan, Ontario June 12, 1916 she graduated from Cornwall Commercial College in Business Education. In 1954, she married Rev. Harold Grove. For 17 years she and her husband ministered in the Peace River district. They were particularly involved in children's work.

Mary was active in all phases of church work, particularly the WMS of which she was a life member. She was children's secretary for the Peace River Presbyterial and the Synodical of Alberta; and active in WMS and CGIT after her husband accepted a call to St. Andrew's, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Upon his retirement, they moved to Saskatoon where she again became children's secretary for the Saskatoon Presbyterial.

She was an outstanding hospital visitor on behalf of St. Andrew's, Saskatoon, and a member of the Hildur Hermanson Auxiliary.

- Mary Janet Grove

Margaret Ada Duff (Mrs.Dixon Duff), born December 6, 1917 at Bognor, Ontario, died April 26, 1994 at Brampton, Ontario. She was an active member of **Norval** Presbyterian Church from 1965 until her death. Ada served as WMS president.

She crafted and designed the 100th Anniversary banner for the Alexander Auxiliary, Norval. Ada was a faithful treasurer of Brampton Presbyterial for several years and served as Norval's representative there.

When Ada became ill and could no longer carry on with her usual pursuits, she abided in her sure and Christian faith that God was with her.

Miss **Kathleen Armstrong** of **Calgary**, Alberta passed away suddenly at her residence on January 1, 1995 at the age of 90. Surviving is her sister Beatrice Armstrong.

Kathleen was a charter member of Grace Presbyterian Church. In July 1913, she and Bea, both Sunday School girls and others in the congregation marched in a procession from the Old to the New building, the present church, when it was formally opened and dedicated.

In 1923 from the same Sunday School class of Mrs. Elizabeth Rae's, the "Young Women's Missionary Group" was formed in "Grace".

Its name was changed to the "Elizabeth Rae Missionary Society" after Mrs. Rae's death in 1943.

Kathleen was the last original member.

Kathleen remained, always a most faithful and dedicated member of both the church and the WMS.

Tillie (McCleery) Bruce passed away December 12, 1994 in **Vernon, B.C.** Jubilee Hospital. She is survived by her husband John and three daughters, Marilyn (Ted) Ellis and their children, Robert and Stephanie, Scarborough, Ontario, Margaret (Jim) Greenwood, Powell River, B.C., Ardelle and her daughter Jennifer Aldrich, Vancouver, B.C. and a brother Jack.

Tillie will be lovingly remembered by the congregation of Knox Church, Vernon, B.C. She was an active member in all areas of the church especially the WMS of which she was a lifetime member.

ANNIVERSARY

The Ferne Blair WMS Group of **First** Church, **Collingwood,** Ontario celebrated its 50th anniversary in October 1994. Under the name of the The Young Women's Auxiliary, sponsored by the Senior Women's WMS of First Church, the current Ferne Blair Group was organized in September, 1944, with a membership of 14. The Treasurer of the new group was Isabelle Leggatt (now Mrs. Robert Adams), who is still an active, dedicated member. Two other charter members, Mabel Robinson and Adilene Bell are interested Home Helpers.

In 1950, the name was changed in honour of Miss Ferne Blair, R.N., a member of this congregation who served for many years in Malaysia. She is now living in retirement in Abbotsford, B.C. Further interest in mission was kept alive through the missionary work of Miss Bessie McMurchy, R.N., who served in India, 1932-1961.

The focus of the Ferne Blair Group was on supporting the spread of the Gospel in Canada and overseas, fostering Mission Study in CGIT, COC and Explorer groups, and keeping the emphasis on spiritual outreach in First Church through missionary speakers.

In 1974, a new group of younger women was organized which eventually became the Centennial WMS celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year under the presidency of Pat Caron and Sheila Doner. One of its members, Betsy McClure serves Barrie Presbyterial WMS as Corresponding Secretary.

A former member of the Ferne Blair WMS Group, the late Eleanor McKee, and its current President, Shirley McKee, are Past Presidents of Barrie Presbyterial WMS, and the latter has held various offices in Toronto-Kingston Synodical WMS as well as on the Ontario CGIT Committee as a Presbyterian representative.

The WMS of **Alberton** Church of **Alberton**, Ontario celebrated their 85th anniversary on October 4, 1994.

Jean Marwick and Wilma Butter are shown cutting the anniversary cake (below).

Life Memberships were presented to Georgina Zimmerman and Helen Reid.

The Synod of British Columbia is seeking Regional Staff for two positions:

Youth & Education Director

Pastoral and Programme Director

Job descriptions and information available from *Ian Victor, 2893 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1M1. (604) 926-1812*

PARCELS TO NEPAL

Please note that information in the Budding's letter on page 26 of the January/February 1995 *Glad Tidings* may be misleading. Readers have reported that the cost of mailing parcels to Nepal by surface mail may be considerably more than the $20-$30 suggested for a 20 kg box.

Below Mrs. H. Beaugrand, Secretary **St. Andrew's** WMS, **Penticton, B.C.** displays items from the parcel of used clothing the group sent to Nepal in response to the Budding's appeal.

Thanks a bunch!

From *Glad Tidings* to the Christian Literature Fund for:

$600 for translation of Christmas worship services in other languages, and for microfilming of six issues of *Glad Tidings*; and

$300 for bulk subscriptions of the *Glad Tidings* sent to the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria for the Women's Guild.

Your assistance helps defray the cost of these items which are a specialized ministry of *Glad Tidings*.

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IN MEMORIAM

Lynne Longmuir

Former Area Educational Consultant Phillis Lynne Longmuir died suddenly in Owen Sound, Ontario on December 29, 1994 in her 42nd year.

Lynne was appointed to the position of Area Educational Consultant, effective September 1980, in the Presbyteries of Sarnia, Stratford-Huron and Bruce-Maitland. She held that position until March 1986 when forced to resign due to illness. During her time with the Society, Lynne's contribution was extensive. Her gentle manner and her insight inspired study and reflection.

A graduate of Ewart College in 1980, Lynne received a B.A. degree from Wilfrid Laurier in 1976, a B.Ed. from Ontario Teacher Education College in 1977, and in 1980 a M.Ed. degree from Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Prior to coming to work for the WMS Lynne worked three summers for the Board of World Mission, two at Huron Feathers, Sauble Beach and one at Milliken and Malvern Churches, Scarborough.

- Lynne Longmuir

Lynne is survived by her parents William and Helen Longmuir of Scarborough, Ontario, a sister Karen and brother Mark.

Pauline Esler

On December 8, 1994 Pauline Esler, former Deaconess of Knox Church, Toronto, Ontario, passed away. Pauline, who graduated in 1939 from Ewart College, had retired in 1983 after over forty years in ministry.

Pauline was a daughter of the manse, her father Rev. Alexander Esler having served in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Her two brothers McKay and Reynolds also are ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Pauline was appointed deaconess of Knox Church in May 1940 and continued in ministry there until her retirement on December 31, 1983.

Agnes Richards

Agnes Richards passed away November 8, 1994 in Hamilton, Ontario. She was an elder in New Westminster Presbyterian Church, sang in the choir and was a member of the Rosalind Goforth Auxiliary of the WMS and its President until a few months before her death.

Agnes served on the executive of Hamilton-London Synodical and as President of Hamilton Presbyterial from 1973-1976. She also served on WMS Council, in particular on the Finance Committee, as well as representing the WMS on the Board of World Mission. She was a member of Christian Endeavour.

Agnes is survived by two daughters, Lynn Laird of Oakville and Susan Blackham of Waterloo.

- Agnes Richards

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Grace Ansdell,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, Ont.

Mrs. Ethel Ferguson,
St. Paul's, Caintown, Ont.

Mrs. Grace Almas,
Mrs. Wilma Hagan,
Mrs. Marriane Peart,
Caledonia, Ont.

Mrs. Ann Scott,
Knox's Galt, Cambridge, Ont.

Ms. Amelia Humeston,
Knox-Zion, Carberry, Man.

Miss Annie Morrison,
Latona, Dornoch, Ont.

Ella Dalrymple,
Caven, Exeter, Ont.

Mrs. Jean McVicar,
Burns, Mosa, Glencoe, Ont.

Jessie Bilston,
St. Columba, Hamilton, Ont.

Mrs. Nadine Gruetzner,
Mrs. Kathleen Johnston,
St. Andrew's, Hanover, Ont.

Mrs. Elva McDermott,
New St. James, London, Ont.

Mrs. Florence Bond,
St. Matthew's, Montreal, Que.

Miss Marybelle Morrison,
St. Andrew's, Mount Forest, Ont.

Mrs. Helen Argyle,
St. Andrew's, Nanaimo, B.C.

Mrs. Elizabeth Quinsey,
(formerly from Caledonia, Ont.)
St. Andrew's, Newmarket, Ont.

Mrs. Dorothy Hope,
Mrs. Jean Morrison,
Gloucester, Ottawa, Ont.

Mrs. Verna Cook,
First, North Pelham, Ont.

Miss Edna Huggins,
First, Port Colborne, Ont.

Mrs. Dorothy Richardson,
Bonar, Port McNicoll, Ont.

Mrs. Frances Plumb,
Mrs. Johann Vermey,
St. Andrew's, Prescott, Ont.

Mrs. Roy (Emma) Allan,
Mrs. Mary Black,
Mrs. Morah Burnell,
Mrs. Elma MacGregor,
Duff's, Puslinch, Ont.

Mrs. Gertie Egan,
St. Marys, Ont.

Mrs. Catherine R. Parsons,
Calvin-Goforth, Saskatoon, Sask.

Mamie Tulloch,
Knox, Selkirk, Man.

Mrs. Berly Flint,
Knox, Stratford, Ont.

Mrs. Kathryn (Katy) Campbell,
Knox, Tiverton, Ont.

Mrs. Margaret McCulloch,
Runnymede, Toronto, Ont.

Miss Sadie Thorburn,
St. Andrew's, Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Jean Runnalls,
St. Andrew's, Watford, Ont.

Mrs. Jean Simpson,
St. Andrew's, Welland, Ont.

Mrs. Marie Graham,
Weston, Ont.

Mrs. Isabel Campbell,
Willowdale, Ont.

Mrs. Janet L. Duncanson,
Knox, Woodstock, Ont.

IN MEMORIAM

Lynne Longmuir

Former Area Educational Consultant Phillis Lynne Longmuir died suddenly in Owen Sound, Ontario on December 29, 1994 in her 42nd year.

Lynne was appointed to the position of Area Educational Consultant, effective September 1980, in the Presbyteries of Sarnia, Stratford-Huron and Bruce-Maitland. She held that position until March 1986 when forced to resign due to illness. During her time with the Society, Lynne's contribution was extensive. Her gentle manner and her insight inspired study and reflection.

A graduate of Ewart College in 1980, Lynne received a B.A. degree from Wilfrid Laurier in 1976, a B.Ed. from Ontario Teacher Education College in 1977, and in 1980 a M.Ed. degree from Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Prior to coming to work for the WMS Lynne worked three summers for the Board of World Mission, two at Huron Feathers, Sauble Beach and one at Milliken and Malvern Churches, Scarborough.

- Lynne Longmuir

Lynne is survived by her parents William and Helen Longmuir of Scarborough, Ontario, a sister Karen and brother Mark.

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Mrs. Jean Runnalls,
St.Andrew's, Watford, Ont.

Mrs. Jean Simpson,
St. Andrew's, Welland, Ont.

Mrs. Marie Graham,
Weston, Ont.

Mrs. Isabel Campbell,
Willowdale, Ont.

Mrs. Janet L.Duncanson,
Knox, Woodstock, Ont.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

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In poor communities, neighbours gather together to find solutions to their problems. Through PWS&D, we are helping people who are planning and taking part in preventive health care, non-formal education and skills training, and income-generation.

PWS&D depends on you as it receives no money from the general funds of our Church. For more information or to make a donation, please write or call:

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telephone: (416) 441–1111 fax: (416) 441–2825

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North York, Ontario, M3C 1J7
Telephone 1-416-441-1111
Fax: 1-416-441-2825

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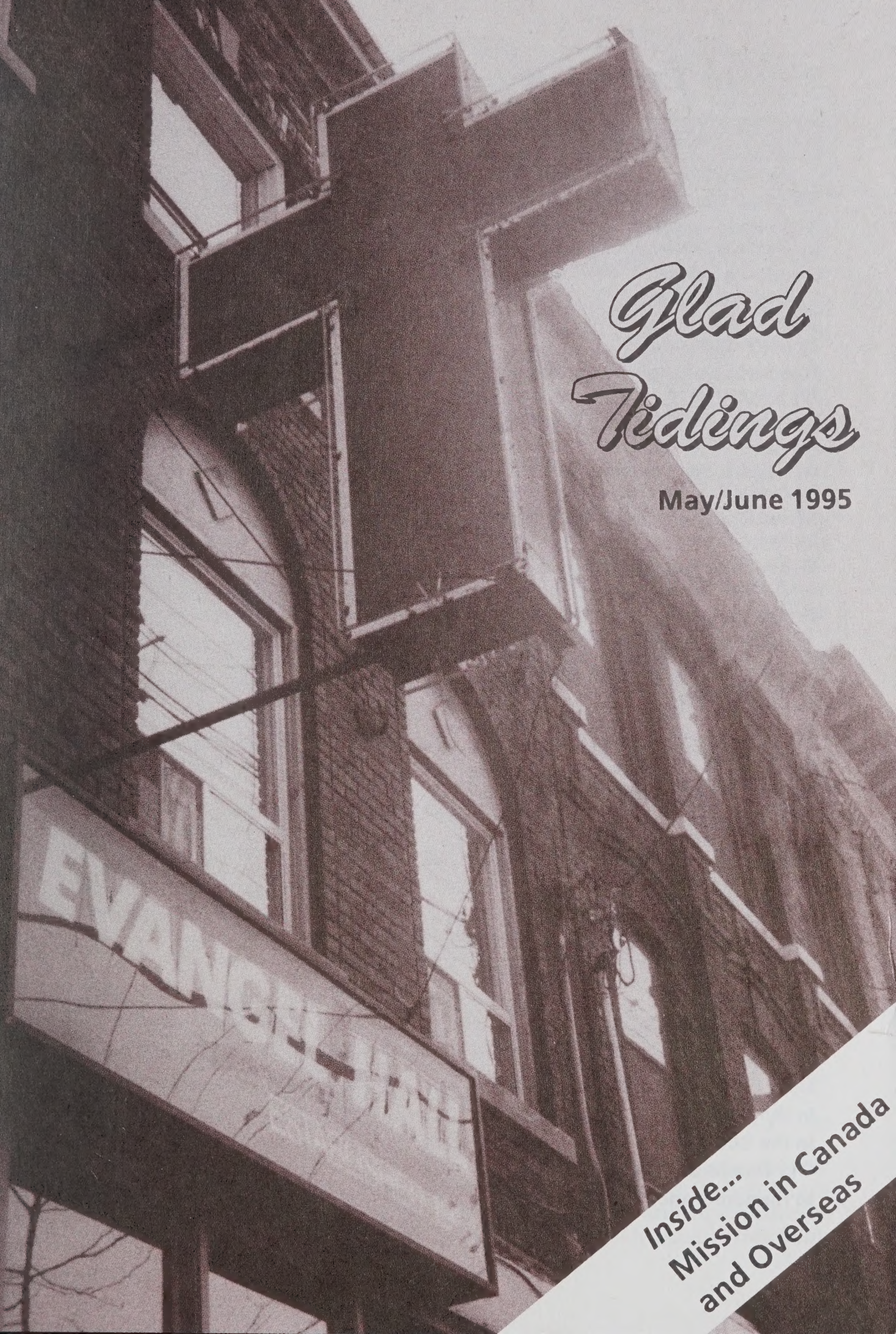
EVANGEL HALL

Glad Tidings

May/June 1995

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Mission in Canada
and Overseas

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Glad Tidings

MAY/JUNE 1995 **Vol. 71 No.3**

L. JUNE STEVENSON
EDITOR

KATHERINE ALLEN
CIRCULATION MANAGER

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

CREDITS: Cover photo by L. June Stevenson

Voices from the Past...

Each issue of Glad Tidings in 1995 will have selected material from previous issues. Following is current information on questions asked in 1958.

The editor of Glad Tidings in 1958, Leeta McCully Cherry, wrote in the February issue:

"Because of the letters which have come in recently...containing similar questions and recommendations pertaining to our magazine, and its cost...it was felt that a general explanation would be timely and appreciated. It was the wish of the Council Executive, therefore, that the Editor seek to answer these questions so that all our members might receive this information at first hand...."

Now, in 1995, we still find the same questions being asked. Always of prime concern is the number of subscribers because that determines our revenue, which, in turn, affects what we are able to accomplish. Leeta Cherry adds:

"In the time allowed...we tried to show that if even 25,000 of our Presbyterian women, out of the over 30,000 who are WMS members, would become regular subscribers to The Glad Tidings, there would be no difficulty at all in paying for our printing."

It has always been true that if most WMS members subscribed we would have little difficulty covering costs. However, it must be noted that in 1995 membership has declined to around 10,000 and the number of subscribers has declined proportionately.

It is also significant that many subscribers are senior citizens on a fixed budget. Problems with vision are affirmed by the fact that around 500 subscribers receive the large print issue or cassette tape.

Glad Tidings, like many religious publications, has always been subsidized. Salaries paid to staff have never been included in the Glad Tidings budget. In 1994 that subsidy amounted to $21,302.

In 1995, the Editorial Working Group hopes to reduce that subsidy considerably, with a goal of eliminating it entirely. We have taken bold steps in that direction. **Glad Tidings is now published every two months, beginning with the January/February issue.** That immediately reduces our postage annually by 40% since we still fall into the same weight category even though **the magazine has increased from 32 to 48 pages per issue.** This means that readers are actually receiving only 32 pages fewer over a year than previously: 32x10=320; 48x6=288 pages. Naturally it costs more to print 48 pages. However since it is only six times a year, the total costs are less.

In the February 1958 Glad Tidings the question was also asked, "Why does The Glad Tidings not carry paid advertising? Would doing so, not help to reduce the cost of production?"

Leeta McCully Cherry responded:

"This question has come before Council Executive at different times during the years, and after careful investigation, each time it has been found not to be practical or feasible. In the first place, with our small and limited circulation, business firms will not pay for advertising space in our magazine... secondly, because we must be careful and discriminating in what we publish, not all types of advertisement could be acceptable. Such advertisements must be of national interest. A larger magazine with more pages, would be required if advertisements were to be carried, and this in itself would be costly enough to offset any profits. Then, too, the writing of advertisements and the soliciting of them, is a high-priced specialized job, which would necessitate adding another salaried member to our Publication Staff...."

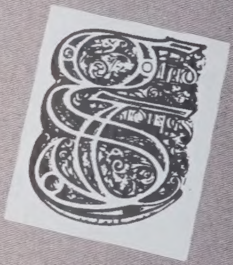
After some investigation and careful planning, the Editorial Working Group recommended to Council Executive in October 1994 that an advertising policy be put in place. **A brochure "Glad Tidings Advertising Rates and Policies" is now available from our office.** It has been sent to all congregations through the PCPak. While we do not expect a lot of advertising, what we do receive will help offset costs. Around $500 was received for each of the first two issues in 1995. A simplified system of invoicing has been put into place so that staff are not burdened by additional work, and it is requested that all ads be camera-ready.

All these decisions have not been taken lightly. It has always been our concern to offer a high quality publication, at an affordable price, to WMS members and other interested persons. With declining membership and decreasing finances the future is uncertain. What is certain is that we need YOUR continued support financially and prayerfully.

L. June Stevenson, Editor

1956-1967
Leeta McCully Cherry

CELEBRATE GLAD TIDINGS 70TH ANNIVERSARY AVAILABLE NOW FROM WMS BOOK ROOM!



NOTES:
blue on cream 4¼" x 6½"
blank inside
good for any occasion
6 for $2.75

POSTER:
full colour 8½" x 11"
suitable for framing
1 poster $2.75

Poster and notes depict David Rankine's beautiful Celtic art as illustrated on the cover of the January/February '95 Glad Tidings.

Six notes for $2.75. Poster $2.75
GST, shipping, handling will be added. Do not send money. You will be billed.
Order from WMS Book Room, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7. Phone: (416) 441-1111. FAX: (416) 441-2825.

Also available:
Glad Tidings bulletins. The 1995 bulletin #06953 featuring David Rankine's Celtic art which was in the recent PCPak can be ordered from the Resource Distribution Centre, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7. Phone: (416) 441-1111. FAX: (416) 441-2825.

A quantity of previous Glad Tidings bulletins #10935 is available from the Glad Tidings office. Available while they last for postage and shipping. Call or write: Glad Tidings, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7. Phone: (416) 441-1111. FAX: (416) 441-2825.

With Mother's Day (Christian Family Sunday) and Father's Day approaching, we celebrate parents and families. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have good memories of family life, hold these treasures dear to our hearts.

In these pages we think especially of those who have 'lost' their parents, not only through death or unpleasant memories but to memory loss, or illnesses like Alzheimers.

We pray for them and for their family members and commend them all to God's loving care.

Alzheimer

mama never knew why the birds came everyday
to flock inside her head
why thunder rolled from the tips of their wings
syllables loud behind the eye
she never knew sometimes
who she was
or why

all she knew was flowers
and the peace she found in gardens
how for some short time they freed her mind
as daybreak brought her silence
she lured each frenzied whirl of black
with simple song and subtle crafts
called them forth
from swirling thought
to feed upon
the open hand of morning

mama no longer finds peace in gardens
her mind sits at an odd angle
and the birds stay firmly nested in her head
content to feed off slanted thoughts
and dream of roses
while mama wanders many gardens
forgetting why she came

Barbara Mitchell

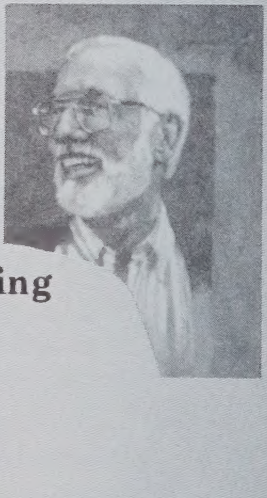
Daddy

His lips now mouth absurdities
laying claim to things that might have never been
and in these loud and garbled voicings
only I can hear the familiar rhythm of his love
for I know that once
when I was young
his words were kind and chosen with care
lending direction to one who was insecure

His eyes now dim with sight
hold but a cloudy vision of scenes from long ago
and in these fractured fancies
only I can see the sketching that was fashioned for my life
for I know that once
when I was young
his eyes mirrored a sharper image
of things I could become

His limbs now weak with trembling gait
flail helplessly, seeking release from days now etched in pain
and in these feeble gestures
only I can feel the strength and nerve
for I know that once
when I was young
these very hands carved patterns in my life
and held me suspended in the wrappings of tender love

The very man he was
seems but a shell to you
but I tell you
everything that I am
lies pressed within his heart
and I will gladly anoint him with gentle hands
cradle him with care
until weary from the echo of twilight's calling
he slips easy
into Sleep's waiting embrace



I will love him
even after –

this special man

my dad

Barbara Mitchell

With all my Heart

by Mary Campbell

We talked on the phone every day. We were very close. She had her faults, but she also had wisdom. She was always there for me when I needed advice. I could depend on her for encouragement and empathy. She understood me. She often signed my birthday, anniversary or Christmas cards, "From your ever loving mom."

I don't remember if she said, "I love you, Mary" but I knew in my heart that she did. I didn't have to ask.

When she started to suffer with memory lapses, I didn't handle it very well. I had no idea what was happening even when some clues were evident that something was not right. As I look back now, I can also see that I didn't want to face it.

Eventually, she would repeat the same news over and over again. I remember becoming frustrated with her a few times. I would say angrily, "Mom, you've told me a hundred times before! Why do you keep doing this to me!"

If I could only go back and relive those moments, I would never have said the things I did. But deep in my heart, I knew she forgave me just the way she forgave me when I was a child. When I did something wrong, she got angry with me, but it was never too long afterward that she let me know everything was going to be all right between us.

My mother seemed to be a very strong person, even after many years as a widow. She faced life bravely. My brother often referred to her as a "fighter" because she took care of him when he was just a toddler for five years while my father went overseas in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. I wasn't born then, but the stories I heard later made me very proud of her.

I depended too much on her strength and when her memory loss got worse and worse, I felt as though her support had been ripped away from me. I didn't know how to relate to her anymore. She couldn't remember anything I told her. It was as if she had died.

Visiting her in a nursing home was not pleasant for me at first. Her once strong and active mind was now reverting back to being a child. But I found myself holding on to every word she spoke even though they were memories of her childhood.

Mom's memory loss got worse over the years. She was slipping away from me. I prayed every day, "Dear Lord, please don't let her forget me!" I needed her to remember my name. I began to hold her hands more often and stroke her face so that she would feel my presence even if she didn't know who I was. I hugged her every time I saw her. There were times when she could not remember me at all. That scared me. In my need, I reached out to her like I never did before.

On one of my visits to the nursing home I felt more forgotten by her than ever before. For some reason I needed to know if she still loved me, so I asked her.

"Of course I do!" she exclaimed. I was amazed at her response. A few minutes earlier she hadn't even known my name. I went further out on a limb and asked her, "How much do you love me?" Her response was incredible. She said in a clear, emotional voice, "I love you with all my heart."

Her precious words are a gift I treasure dearly. She can no longer relate to me with her mind. But she can speak to me with her heart.

Mom's dementia is getting worse. She rarely remembers my name. But she does realize I am someone she loves deeply. When I ask her how much she loves me, she still says, "I love you with all my heart."

Recently, I needed reassurance from God about a problem I was having. The Holy Spirit reminded me of the scripture, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5 NIV) God wanted me to trust in him with all my heart. Hearing my mother say, "I love you with all my heart", Proverbs 3:5 came alive for me. I needed to love and trust God completely the way my mom loved and trusted me.

Some days I just can't understand with my mind why things happen the way they do. But I understand that I can trust God with all my heart, in all situations.

RESOURCES ON AGING AND CARING FOR LOVED ONES

G5961 - AGING COMES OF AGE, Older People Finding Themselves *by Frank Hutchison.* Westminster/John Knox Press 1991. "Expanding Your Spiritual Wellbeing" and "Stretch Your Mind to the Limit" are samples of the chapters in this upbeat book. **$13.00**

G4149 - ALZHEIMER'S, Caring for your Loved One, Caring for Yourself *by Sharon Fish.* A Lion Book 1990. It has been called one of the toughest assignments anyone can be asked to do - care for a loved one who has Alzheimer's disease. A helpful book. **$14.25**

G5175 - BIBLE READINGS FOR CAREGIVERS *by Betty Groth Syverson.* Augsburg 1987. Would be appreciated by the professional or lay person who is concerned for others. **$7.25**

G4512 - GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS SURE AND STRONG, Comfort for God's Word for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer's Disease. American Bible Society 1976. **$1.75**

G4553 - FOR FAMILIES UNDER STRESS, Good News from God's Word. American Bible Society 1992. Short passages of scripture relating to family life in Today's English Version. Questions for reflection are included. **$1.75**

G5031 - I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. How to Help and Support Someone Who is Dying *by Dr. Robert Buckman.* Key Porter Books. 1988. **$16.95.**

G5647 - CARING FOR AGING PARENTS. "Straight answers that help you serve their needs without ignoring your own." *by Richard P. Johnson.* Concordia Publishing House 1995. **$13.50**

G4677 - SHARED PAIN AND SORROW. *Reflections of a Secondary Sufferer by James I. Cook.* Pilgrim Press 1991. This small booklet contains the confessions of a person who had to endure the suffering of someone deeply loved. **$2.35**

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE WMS BOOK ROOM (see page 16 for ordering information.)

Thanks to WMS from Evangel Hall

by David Smith

On August 1, 1994, I became the Executive Director of Evangel Hall. Evangel Hall is an inner city mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada that ministers to troubled men, women and children. The Hall was founded by Knox Presbyterian Church, Spadina Avenue, Toronto in 1913 and has been in continuous operation at the current location of 573 Queen Street West for the 82 years since then.

Many *Glad Tidings* readers will know the Hall because, at one time or another, they will have volunteered here. Others will know the Hall through our quarterly newsletter, *NewsClips*. Many others will have at least heard of this significant Presbyterian ministry for the poor of Canada.

One of the first things that became clear to me in my new role at the Hall was that WMS groups all across the country, particularly in the Toronto area, have played an enormously important role in the Hall's work over the past years. When I realized this fact, I determined that I would recognize WMS groups at every opportunity I could.

My main purpose in this article is to say thank you to WMS members and groups, past and present, for everything that they have done at the Hall. WMS groups quietly do a tremendous amount of work for others often without expecting anything for themselves. No doubt, most WMS members feel about their work the way we do at the Hall: the privilege of service is reward enough. All the same, it is nice to get a heartfelt "thank you" every now and then!

Evangel Hall's programs currently fall into two main parts: day programs for adults and evening programs for youth. Anywhere from 50 to 100 adults visit the main hall each day. At first, they may just come for the coffee or soup or sandwich, but soon they get used to staying a bit longer, to play cards, to talk, to watch TV. They can get good quality used clothing in our basement clothing shop which is run by other disadvantaged people.

Eventually, people will ask for our advice or help on a medical problem or to find somewhere to live. Slowly, we try to get to know them and engage them in the long process leading to increased independence and happiness. We encourage them to become involved in our other programs: our trusteeship program in which we help them budget and safeguard their money; our "community kitchen" in which they help us to prepare a meal in instead of just carrying hand-outs away; a Bible study group or public worship.

People can count on us to help them when they are away from the Hall too. They call us when they are sick, in trouble with the law, or when they are in the hospital. We make time to visit them and arrange for other help if necessary. We also regularly speak to loved ones on the phone, if the person gives us permission. These calls come from all across the country and it is gratifying to know that our healing work extends to the families too.

The ultimate success story is when we have helped people to leave

573
EVANGEL HALL
ESTABLISHED 1913

- Some Evangel Hall staff, clockwise from top right, Jean Lansing, David Smith, Catherine Anderson, and Brenda Holmes.

Photos: L. June Stevenson

the street for good. This can begin in an apartment in our 46-unit supportive housing, Portland Place. Portland Place is located immediately to the rear of the Hall and is, to me, a major success story in low-income supportive housing.

The other half of our programming, the evening teen drop-in, is aimed at young people between the ages of 12 and 20. Participants can participate in any or all of six activities: ping-pong, pool, music, games, soft drinks, cards, discussion and socializing in the main Hall; a supper club in the main kitchen in which they can help prepare and have a nutritious meal; working in our computer room, either to work on school assignments or play computer games; quiet tutoring on a one-to-one basis; repairing used bikes in our bicycle repair shop; and counselling on personal problems with a paid staff person.

My dream is eventually to add an out-of-the-cold shelter for men during the night hours and then to have the Hall open on the weekend as well. This would create a 7-day-per-week, 24-hour-per-day ministry and what a great parable of God's presence that would be!

Every person who comes to Evangel Hall is greeted personally at the door by a staff member. This ensures that people who are angry, drunk or high do not destroy the peace in the Hall, but also ensures that, when Jesus comes in the guise of a needy person, we are sure to greet Him personally. Being able to ring our doorbell is often the first step in the journey toward the reclamation, and even discovery, of self-respect. We see Jesus Christ in everyone and we hope that they, eventually and in their own way, will see Him in us and in what we do.

Thank you, WMS, for what you have done to make all of this possible. If you would like more information or to receive our quarterly newsletter, *NewsClips*, please write or call me at Evangel Hall, P. O. Box 309, Station "B", Toronto, Ontario M5T 2W2, (416) 504-3563. In the meantime, God bless you as you go on your journey!

Evangel Hall:

...is a ministry that sees Jesus Christ in everyone and attempts to show His love to everyone through good works regardless of anyone's beliefs or station in life;

...challenges individuals, as equals before God, to respect themselves and others through programs aimed at building self-esteem and independence;

...has a special ministry to those who "fall between the cracks", and who need assistance to make full use of mainstream social services;

...within the bounds of confidentiality, provides advice and support to family members and loved ones wherever they happen to live;

...services are free of charge and given unconditionally to any person in need;

...staff, volunteers and visitors pray and worship regularly and joyfully together;

...is grounded in and committed to the spirituality and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in Canada through its volunteer Board of Directors;

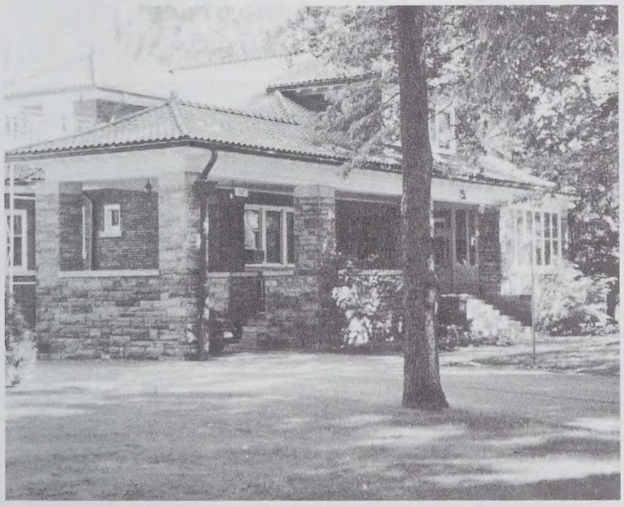
...is committed to assisting congregations and other parts of the Church by means of the inspiration of its work, through joint projects, and in other practical ways;

...cooperates whenever possible with other Christian missions and social service agencies to ensure that its services complement, and do not compete with or needlessly overlap, services offered elsewhere; and

...is ready at all times to demonstrate to its supporters the effectiveness with which it uses its resources in the pursuit of this ministry.

Armagh's Special Kids

by Linda R. Ferguson



- Armagh provides housing for abused women and their children.

Last spring, I agreed to run a play group at Armagh, a second stage housing program for abused women and their children. The night before my first session, I gathered my best toys, stories, music and craft materials. And took a deep breath.

The name tags in front of me told the story: one for my own four-year-old; one for a five-year-old who spoke some English; two for three-year-olds with little English; two for two-year-olds with little language at all. Would my bag of tricks be up to the challenges of a group who wouldn't always understand me – or one another?

During my first two hours with the children of Armagh, I learned a few words in Spanish and Arabic and volumes about the resilience and joy of young children. By the end of a ten-week program, my little group had proven to be much like my church school classes: they loved play dough and water-squirters and they did not love sharing toys or living by adult schedules.

Sometimes, it is true, my group at Armagh had bad days – days when their sadness and fear would leave them alternately quiet and wild. But as I found ways to respect their sadness, the children found ways to put it aside and engage enthusiastically in the creative learning and play that delights all preschoolers. And when they chose to let me hear them, it was clear that their English improved much more quickly than my Spanish.

Most of Armagh's kids are preschoolers

The children of my playgroup were fairly typical of the children Armagh has served in the three years since it opened its doors as a program of housing for abused women and their children. Theoretically, the program could house as many as sixteen children ranging in age from birth through adolescence. In practice, there are usually about eight children at Armagh and most of them are preschoolers. Several newborns have come home to an apartment at Armagh, but few teenagers have lived there. Kim Curran, Executive Director at Armagh, speculates that "It's very difficult for any mother to take her children away from their home and their father, but the obstacles for a mother with school-age children can be overwhelming. It seems that the older the children are, the more difficult it is to leave."

The children who live at Armagh face concerns that may seem much bigger than they are. Armagh provides a program of supportive housing for as many as six months after a woman leaves a crisis shelter. That means that children at Armagh have already faced two moves, and will move at least one more time: a total of three moves within a period of eight months.

Almost all of these children have seen their mothers being abused by their fathers; some have been abused themselves. All will have given up the familiar places and routines which give structure to a small child's world. At Armagh, they will have to adjust to these changes while their mothers work through the legal and social welfare systems to build new lives free of violence.

Presbyterian mission: the foundation of Armagh's work

As mothers and children rebuild their lives at Armagh, they are supported directly by staff and volunteers, and indirectly by the Board of Directors responsible for the program. Most of the Board members and many of the volunteers are Presbyterians, carrying out the work of Armagh as a mission of the Presbyterian Church. The work of the

If someone tells you she is being abused...

- believe what she says
- share your belief that she deserves a violence-free life
- give her information about helping agencies in your community
- accept her right to make choices about when to leave her home
- when she is ready, help her to form a safe plan for leaving

church at Armagh goes back to 1955, when Presbyterians operated a home for unwed mothers. This program closed in 1984. In March 1991, Armagh opened its doors again, as one of only six second-stage housing programs in Ontario.[1]

Its new program is financed by the Ontario Ministries of Housing and Community and Social Services, and by private donations. Most of these donations come from Presbyterian congregations and individuals, continuing a long tradition of Presbyterians caring for women at Armagh. Although Armagh operates independently of the church, it is to Presbyterians that board and staff are mostly likely to turn when they need help. And, as a Presbyterian who has served as a Board member and volunteer at Armagh, I bear witness to the deeper relationship between its service and the faith we share. In working at Armagh, I felt both my faith and my pride in Presbyterians grow stronger.

Armagh's kids feel safe and valued

Growing stronger is what Armagh is all about. Children who walk through its doors for the first time must be confused and frightened. As beautiful as the old house is, it certainly doesn't look like the homes most children have left. For some days, children cling to their mothers in the hall.

When they meet staff or volunteers (everyone at Armagh stops to chat with children) newcomers turn their eyes away with shy smiles. For too long, they have been trapped by the secrets of a violent home. For too long, their experience of the way adults relate has been filtered through a haze of abuse. Most of them are small and quiet and stick close to their moms.

You might think that these children never laugh. You might think that, without a full-time child counsellor on staff, Armagh could do little to help. But you might not have seen the children who run laughing through the halls, wandering freely into offices and generally claiming the place as their own.

Armagh does not provide formalized programming for children. Instead, it offers an informal mosaic of programs and experiences through which children come to feel secure and happy at Armagh. Whether they are toddlers at play in the courtyard or playroom, or school-age children being welcomed into the local school, children find support and love from everyone they see at Armagh. No board member is ever too important, no staff member too stressed to laugh with a child. Every adult they see at Armagh is a friend.

Does it sound too good to be true? Of course, staff close their doors when they need focus or privacy. And Kim Curran does admit that she'd like to put a lock on the piano sometimes. But, when you listen to Curran describe the baby who is just taking his first steps there, or watch a volunteer reading to a preschooler, or walk with a student leading a hike through the nearby

How Can You Help?

- donate money, supplies for Armagh and its grounds, or household goods and furniture
- hold a fund-raising event or sponsor an information session at your church
- volunteer at a local shelter (or at Armagh)
- support a friend or relative whom you suspect may be abused

woods, you begin to see that children find more than safety at Armagh. They find a place where children are valued and nurtured.

Helping mothers helps their kids too

In many ways, the goals of the programs for women at Armagh might be summed up as helping women find the strength and the resources to make their homes safe and nurturing places. Whether staff are helping a woman negotiate assault and custody cases in the legal system, or teaching parenting classes, they are helping mothers prepare a new life for themselves and their children.

When a woman leaves an abusive relationship, she is likely to also be leaving behind the financial security she may once have taken for granted. Sixty percent of single parent families headed by women in Canada live below the poverty line. Counsellors at Armagh help mothers to cope with that statistic: to find safe, affordable housing and whatever training is necessary to reenter the work-force. They will also help her to manage and guide the behavior of her children.

Armagh helps break the cycle of violence

This help is crucial if children are to be free of the cycles of violence. In 1994, Statistics Canada released the results of its National Survey on Wife Assault. They reported that men who had watched their fathers hitting their mothers were three times more likely to become abusive themselves. Forty percent of the assaults reported to the survey had been witnessed by children; the number climbed to fifty percent when only assaults in which a woman feared for her life were counted. Other studies show not only that boys who witness abuse are likely to become abusers, but that girls who grow up in abusive homes are more likely to become victims themselves.

The picture is not entirely bleak, however. Staff at Armagh work with mothers to help them understand the effects that violence has had on their children. And most of the children at Armagh are under the age of eight. They are the group of children most likely to be influenced by change in their lives, the group most likely to break free of the cycles of violence which may have dominated the lives of their parents.

It is too early for us to see the full results of the work at Armagh. It will be many years before the children who have come to us for sanctuary have spouses and children of their own. But we know that we have improved their chances.

Curran tells the story of a two-year-old boy and his three-year-old sister. "They had the saddest eyes I've ever seen," she says. "It was weeks before anyone saw them smile." And yet, during their stay at Armagh, those children thrived. They laughed and played in the halls; they began to speak fluently and frequently. One day near the end of the stay, they had lunch in the dining room. As Curran and other adults began to clear the table, they were followed into the kitchen by the little boy. When he heard their enthusiastic praise for his help, he and his sister cleared the rest of the table themselves. It's a telling illustration of both the good and the bad at Armagh. Within weeks of the incident, those children and their mother had become some of the few who return to abusive homes.

Supporting the work of Armagh

I hope this article has opened up

- In 1955 the Presbyterian Church operated a home for unwed mothers.

to you some of the experiences I have had in my contact with the children of Armagh. If, like me, you would like to help them and children like them, please share this article with members of your congregation. Speakers from Armagh are always eager to visit and raise awareness of both the problem of woman abuse and the solutions which are made possible when we help and nurture abused women and their children. You, or other members of your congregation, may have encountered abuse or know someone who is enduring it now. By talking about it openly, you may give someone hope that she is understood and that she is not alone.

But, as I have show here, women are not the only victims of wife assault. And so, we at Armagh would also invite you to consider Armagh as a mission project for your Church school children. Very young children might be told that they will be helping children who cannot live in their own houses any more. Older children will understand both the difficulty of leaving home and friends, and the pain of keeping the secret of violence. If you would like help in introducing this difficult issue to your children, please call Armagh.

A prayer for the kids at Armagh

Finally, I invite you to join me in this prayer for the children of Armagh. Please share it with your church school, your women's groups, your bible studies, or your congregations.

Loving God,
Grant sanctuary to the children of Armagh.
Let them find arms wide enough to embrace them and to help their mothers,
Let them find joy enough to live and laugh and grow,
Let them find courage to face changes in their lives.
And most of all, dear Lord,
Let the children of Armagh know
That the measure of strength is in helping, not hitting.
Let them know your love, as the love of a Father who comforts and nurtures, a love which values them above all else.
Dear Saviour of all, bless the children of Armagh. Amen.

---

[1] There are now about 20 second stage housing programs in Ontario.

ARMAGH

A Program of Supportive Housing for Abused Women and their Children

Want to Help?

Contact: Kim Curran, Executive Director, P. O. Box 52581, 1801 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga, Ontario L5J 4S6

BOOKS

Order from:
The WMS Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
441-1111. Ext. 239/240.
Hours: Mon-Fri-8:45-4:00

Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and GST will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation.

A FIRE IS KINDLED *by Rex G. Krepps. Price $14.95.*
This is the true experience of a young person who returned from serving overseas for four years in the Canadian Army. Like many others, he floundered in the attempt to get himself oriented into civilian life.

Told in readable and entertaining language, this story deals with the training which was necessary to become a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It deals with a man who loves living and found real life, love, laughter and lament, in the service of God and humanity.

The author, Rex Krepps, is a retired Presbyterian Church minister now living with his wife in Oliver, British Columbia.

As you read you are drawn into the challenge and fun of training; the varied experiences of a student minister and the opportunities and relationships of a minister's life. I guarantee that you will laugh and cry along with the author.

He relates realistically his trials and tribulations in the various mission fields as a student minister in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nova Scotia. It is particularly interesting to hear of his work at the Indian Residential School at Birtle. Later he served as minister in Virden, Manitoba, Norwood in Winnipeg, Salmon Arm and finally in Haney, B.C. from where he retired.

It is encouraging to see the true dedication and love that flowed through the life of this missionary. I highly recommend this book to clergy and laity alike.

Laurie Jackson

THE QUEST FOR THE FLAMING PEARL by *Edward Hayes. Published by Forest of Peace Publishing. Price $15.95.*
It is not often that we meet dragons in books of the 1990s but Edward Hayes has compiled a third book where the story teller is a dragon. Igor, 'a flaming-red Chinese dragon' and a spiritual master, leads St. (meaning Sent) George on a spiritual quest. This quest includes Igor telling masterful parables, their conversations and George's reflections. In *The Quest for the Flaming Pearl,* George is joined by Martha on this journey. The book is in the form of a naval log (journal) where the captain of the day records the events of the journey.

George and Martha take turns entering their thoughts, the parables of Igor, and segments of their conversations in the log. They meet Igor in the Hermitage, the place where they go to spend time on their spiritual search and which is located behind their home. It is important to note that George and Martha take turns going to the Hermitage on their own.

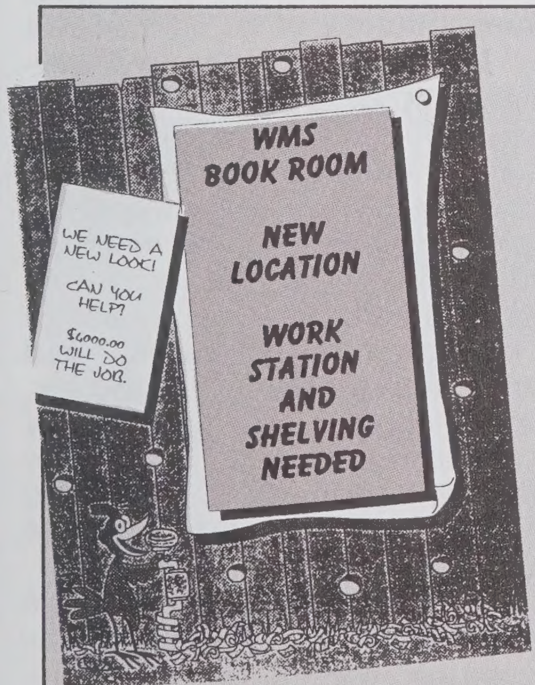
Reading this book requires time to peruse the entries and ponder the questions and ideas raised by George and Martha. Right in the middle of one's pondering enters Igor with yet another parable and which gives way for more contemplation. The parables are refreshing, amusing and exciting. They come across like fables as they relate to issues and concerns of those who may be at the helm in the 1990s. They force not only George and Martha but also the reader to ponder their message. It is therefore better not to read this 'log' (book) in one sitting. Taking the time to go through this book challenges the reader to 'listen' to the parables.

In many ways this book is for the individual reader. The parables, however, are ones to be learned and shared. Such sharing could be in Sunday morning worship, study groups or in a retreat setting. Each person will hear Igor's parables in their own way and respond according to their situation.

As St. George, St. Martha (remember that St. means Sent), and the reader travel forward they do discover 'the flaming pearl' ... only to embark on another quest.

Terrie-Lee Hamilton

The **Synod of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario** is seeking to hire a **Regional Staff Person**. The person is required to be an Ordained Minister with a minimum of five years experience in a parish. The major emphasis of the position will be pastoral care, conflict resolution, mission education, leadership development in conjunction with Sessions, church schools, WMS and youth ministries. The person will serve as a liaison between the WMS Council Executive and Executive Secretary and the Synodical and Presbyterials and the Life and Mission Agency and the Presbyteries and Synod. Applications are due by June 15, 1995. For more information contact Rev. Milton Fraser, 350 Surrey Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 1K1, 807-683-8111.



- **The Book Room will be located in a highly visible place inside the main ground floor entrance of 50 Wynford Drive.**
- **You might like to contribute toward this project.**
- **We do not want to divert funds in any way from the General Fund.**
- **This is a one-time request for assistance so that the ministry of the Book Room may be enhanced.**
- **An 8½"x14" flyer as illustrated is available on request from the Book Room.**
- **Any contributions should be sent, marked "special gift for the Book Room" to Jeanette Whynotte, Assistant to the Treasurer.**

Stand Up! Speak Up! Be Counted!

by Kay Cowper

As my three-year term as President of the Women's Missionary Society comes to its close, I look back to May of 1992 when I STOOD to be installed as your President. I wondered how well I was prepared to lead. Could I STAND and BE COUNTED?

At that time restructuring had begun in the Presbyterian Church in Canada and was just being put into place at General Assembly. We knew changes were going to take place in the Society's relationship with the new Life and Mission Agency as well as the Service Agency. We wanted to co-operate with the Church at large but we needed to STAND UP for what we believed our Society STOOD for. What an awesome position to be in and what a joy to know that I didn't STAND alone. What a wonderfully supportive Executive I have had to work with.

My presidency began almost immediately with plans for a trip to Taiwan and Hong Kong. How very important this trip was to again impress upon me (what I had known for years) how important the role of the WMS has been and still is in the overseas mission fields. How helpful it was for me to see first-hand the work that is going on in Taiwan and Hong Kong, to hear about so many things faithful workers over the years have accomplished and to realize the high esteem in which these workers are held even today.

My slides (thanks to my husband) and my story of that trip took me to many places and gave me an opportunity to meet and share with many of you. This helped to fulfill one of the goals I had set when I became President, that I would visit as many local Auxiliaries as I could, as well as Presbyterials and Synodicals. Sometimes the groups were quite small but I feel it was all the more important that I meet them and encourage them.

1993 was the year we circulated our survey across the church to find out how we were perceived as a WMS. I'm not sure we were prepared for the findings! Many people didn't know what the WMS did or STOOD for. Some thought of us as a secret society! But many felt there was certainly a place in the churches for a women's group.

Then, when we had the results, what were we going to do about it? We agreed we needed to change. Communication was lacking – we needed to come alive – we needed to reach out to our congregations and beyond them to the community. Where to begin? The suggestion of facilitators and looking at a five-year plan was brought forward and soon became our plan for our 1994 Annual Meeting.

Our theme was *Threatened with Resurrection*. All of the delegates to that meeting worked very hard under the direction of Jan James and

Jean Funk and the results amazed us all. The recommendations and action plans are found in the report entitled *Threatened With Resurrection – Stand Up! Speak Up! Be Counted!* Each of your groups should have a copy and we encourage you to study it and be a part of its implementation.

It was a real thrill for me, at our Council Executive Meeting following Council, to see the enthusiasm of the Executive to get started. They were offering to go on the committees we had to set up to get things rolling. That enthusiasm is continuing and we're hoping you will all get involved and that you in turn will STAND UP! SPEAK UP! and BE COUNTED!

Also in 1994 I had the privilege of visiting six of our seven Synodicals for their Annual Meetings. I was encouraged to see one Synodical, who were having trouble finding officers, initiate a new way of continuing Synodical work by calling on each Presbyterial for two persons to help. Sometimes what we have always done doesn't work any more (times have changed) and I want to encourage you to try new ways.

I was really encouraged by the enthusiasm across the country. These meetings were before Council meetings of course and the delegates being named were anxious to know what this five-year plan was all about.

In July Tam Corbett and I were privileged to attend a Conference of the Presbyterian Women USA at Ames, Iowa. Their triennial meeting was a gathering of over 4000 women and men. It was obvious that a lot of planning had gone into all the arrangements for these days (Thursday-Sunday). We came home thinking that we could have a gathering like this on a smaller scale, of course, here in Canada. We would need to include all our women, not just WMS members.

In September I was invited to Sydney, Nova Scotia to attend the Atlantic Mission Society's Annual Meeting, and to bring greetings from all of you. Many of their concerns are the same as ours, and our Societies co-operate with each other in every way we can. They, as a Society, keep in close touch with all our mission workers both overseas and in Canada, and I commend them for that.

BEST WISHES
AND

- Kay Cowper, left and husband Larry accepting gift of homemade quilt and quilt rack at St. Columba, Hamilton, Ontario on the occasion of Larry's retirement.

We must know what we stand for, and for whom we speak to be counted as followers of Christ.

One of the highlights of my Presidency was to be present at the ceremony at The Forks in Winnipeg in October 1994 when our Church's Confession to Aboriginal Peoples was presented by Moderator George Vais to the First Nations people and received by Grand Chief Phil Fontaine. How humbling and yet thrilling to be able to speak on such an historic occasion.

1995 has brought a lot of discussion and planning regarding regional staffing. The WMS has taken responsibility for a part of the funding for these workers and therefore wants to be sure that capable people are hired. In some areas plans are taking shape and people are in place. In others (at time of writing) interviews are being set up. We pray that once these teams have been set up that all areas of the work in the Synod-Synodicals will be taken care of and that we will all work as a team in Mission.

As our Five-Year Plan indicates we need to STAND UP! SPEAK UP! and BE COUNTED! I think this tells us that we must know what we stand for, and for whom we speak in order to be able to be counted as followers of Christ. I think Paul has a message for us in Ephesians 6:11 (Good News Bible) when he says "Put on all the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to STAND UP against the Devil's evil tricks." When Paul is writing this letter he is in chains in prison and he uses the armour worn by his guard, the Roman soldier, to tell us what that armour consists of.

In verses 14-18 he says, "So STAND ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One. And accept salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you. Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people."

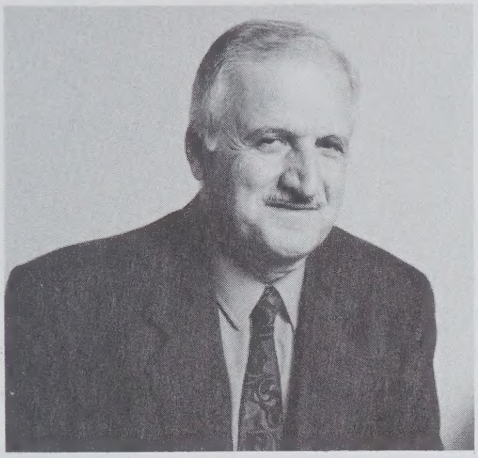
We need more Bible Study, we need to be confident when we STAND to SPEAK. I pray that each one of us will put on all the armour God provides and then we will be able to STAND UP! SPEAK UP! BE COUNTED!

The past three years have been a growing experience for me. I've grown in experience, in knowledge, in faith and in confidence as I've tried to be the best leader, with God's help, that I could be. Thank you for your love and support. I couldn't have done it without all of you. I know you will support our new President when she is installed at the end of May as you have me.

"Stand Up!

Speak Up!

Be Counted!"



Reflections from a Distance

by Dr. George Vais

Moderator,

120th General Assembly

"What an honour it must be for you to have been elected to this high office!", some well meaning individuals have been saying to me since my nomination and official election as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada last June. While I do appreciate people's kindness and good wishes, my usual response goes like this, "I did not accept this nomination from our Church simply for the honour of it, but for the many opportunities it would present me. Opportunities to meet people from across the country, hear them talk about their Church, and have them express their concerns about the Church's ministry and mission in the closing years of the 20th century."

At the same time, I am grateful to God for this sobering and enriching experience. I do believe that if every Presbyterian had a similar opportunity to visit congregations both in our country and in other parts of the world, ours would be a more vibrant, task oriented and mission minded Church.

This year, I have had the chance to see my own congregation, as well as the Presbyterian Church in Canada from a distance. From the distance, our "empire building" can't be noticed; our petty arguments can't be heard; the labels we put on each other can't be seen; our busyness is re-evaluated; our possessions become immaterial; our formalities are not that important; and from the distance, Paul is so right when he writes, "There is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

In Cuba, my wife and I experienced a Church that is alive and well, in spite of opposition, hardships and persecutions, not to mention the U.S. embargo. Upon our return, we asked ourselves, do we have to wait for a persecution before we can experience the same zeal as our Cuban sisters and brothers?

In Guyana, we saw a Church that is struggling; part of it wants to continue as is, and another part of it wants to determine its own future. The Presbyterian Church in

> *Today's youth will not be the Church of the future, unless we make it possible for them to be the Church of the present.*

. . . continued on page 27

CELEBRATING YOUTH :and Children!

Wanted: A new logo for this page, something that reflects children and youth today. Note that from now on it will be called "Celebrating Youth *and Children*," at the request of the WMS Children and Teenage Working Group.

Send your suggestions camera-ready, if possible, to Glad Tidings as soon as possible.

1993-94 Learning/Sharing Project: Early in 1995 the balance of monies towards the purchase of bibles and mosquito nets was sent to the Guyana Presbyterian Church. The total amount raised was $10,569.72.

CGIT 80th ANNIVERSARY

In 1995 Canadian Girls in Training celebrates its 80th anniversary. CGIT began around a lunch table in 1915, as women of Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, as well as the YWCA, met to draft a new program for teenaged girls.

Leadership development has been the thrust of the program from the beginning, bringing people together from across the country.

In 1924 the first issue of *The Torch*, the magazine for CGIT leaders, was published. In 1970, *The Torch* became a magazine for both leaders and girls.

Christmas Vesper Services are another long tradition, launched in 1940 for the 25th anniversary, and participated in each year across the country by groups, their congregations, and others such as residents in seniors' accommodation.

Camping has been an extension of the program almost since the beginning. Regional Camp Councils began in Ontario in 1927. In 1967, "Triple C", Centennial Camp Council, celebrated Canada's centennial, with 500 girls and leaders moving across Canada to take part in eight camps.

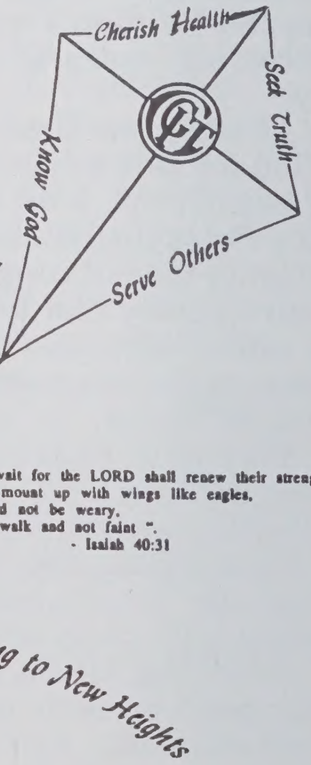
Anniversaries have often been occasions for giving. In 1965, the Golden Anniversary celebration raised $50,000 for a Christian Education Centre in Indonesia. Now the 80th anniversary finds CGIT "Soaring to New Heights," hoping to raise $25,000 toward the building of a home for homeless teenaged girls in Cristalina, Brazil.

May CGIT continue to encourage teenaged girls and their leaders to soar to new heights of faith and leadership!

CGIT

80th

ANNIVERSARY



" but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength'
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint ".
- Isaiah 40:31

CGIT WEEK
October 15-22
1995

The Rights of Children

Every child has the right...

- to be loved.
- to healthy food and medical care.
- to protection from danger and cruelty.
- to education and recreation.
- to a name and to belong to a nation.

Every child has the right...

- to special help and care if they are handicapped.
- to her or his own identity and to express his or her own thoughts freely.
- to her or his own culture, language and religion.
- to be cared for before adults when there is a disaster.

Every child has the right...

- to live in a world without pollution.
- to be free from discrimination of any kind.
- to live in a society where there is peace and friendship among all people.

- adapted from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

1995-96 STUDY THEME RESOURCES

Youth Video and Leader's Guide
Visioning for God's Shalom
The Community of Nations
Mia Adjali and Deborah Storms
Study Guide to the UNITED NATIONS
Mia Adjali and Deborah Storms

UNITED NATIONS

Adult

THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. *Mia Adjali and Deborah Storms, Editors.*
Marking the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, writers from different parts of the world reflect on this extraordinary community's original mission and principles, examine some of its successes and failures, and evaluate its potential for the future. Chapters focus on peacekeeping, human rights, environment and sustainable development, women, children, and health. G5667 - $9.00

STUDY GUIDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS *by Mia Adjali and Deborah Storms.*
This book offers many ideas for study leaders in five sessions designed as "A Time to Reaffirm... Remember... Reflect... Respond... Rejoice." Participants will, through a simulation process, gain understanding of and skills for working through churches and other non-governmental organizations to influence UN conventions and agreements. Worship ideas and songs are included.
G5668 - $7.00

THE UN: EARTH'S HOPE. Video, 28 minutes.
Churches have been central to envisioning a strong UN that would move the world's peoples toward freedom and security for all. This video looks at the story of the UN along with the formative and supportive role of the churches. Study guide included. G5669 - $29.00

Youth Packet

VISIONING FOR GOD'S SHALOM.
Youth video and leader's guide created by Jerry Holsopple. Video, 30 minutes.
Created as an interactive youth resource, the video and guide work hand-in-hand to help young people explore issues and discuss their visions of peace, meaningful life, and a healthy environment. The segments are set off by questions; the guide's format includes ideas for discussion, relevant scripture study, exercises, and ways to respond. Student hand-outs are provided for each lesson.

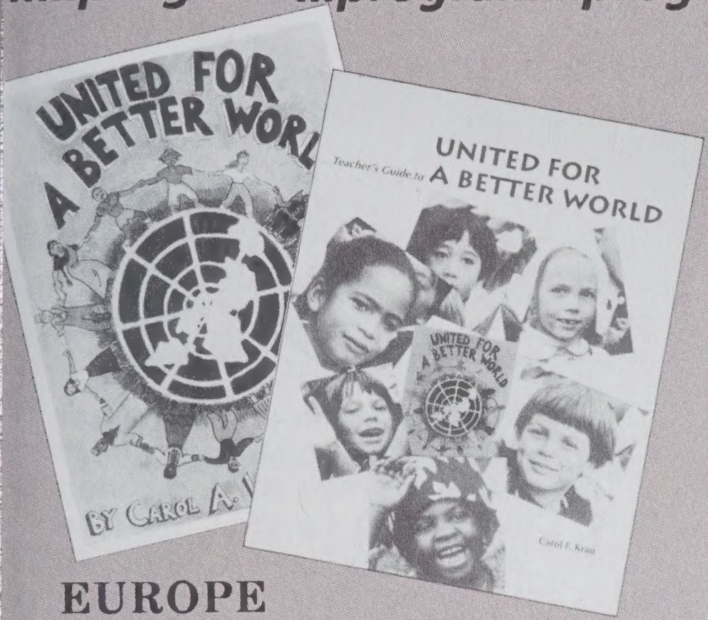
The Youth packet will include the Learning/Sharing Project as well as the video and guide. Youth Packet Y2220 - $35.00

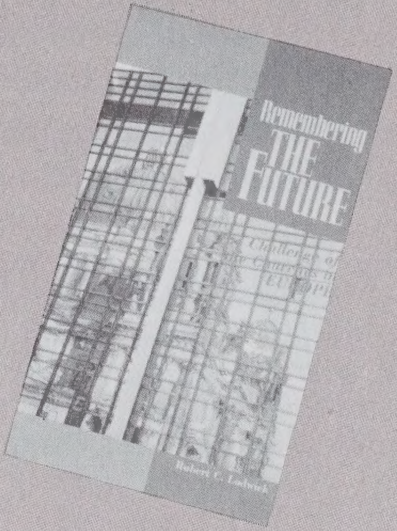
Children's Packet

UNITED FOR A BETTER WORLD *by Carol A. Wehrheim, illustrated by Gary Hoff.*
This full-colour magazine is crammed with games, puzzles, and other activities which will engage children in learning about the United Nations and some of its roles, especially peacekeeping. They will connect the hope for peace with the biblical mandate, and find ways to work for peace themselves. A celebration for UN Days, songs, drama, and other group exercises are included.

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO UNITED FOR A BETTER WORLD *by Carol F. Krau.*
Basic information about the United Nations and tips for teaching different age levels supplement five easy-to-follow sessions in this guide for adults working with children on the UN study. An exciting and creative intergenerational UN Day celebration, songs, drama, and other group activities are included.

The Children's packet will include the above two books and the Learning/Sharing Project. Children's Packet C0409 - $12.00


UNITED FOR A BETTER WORLD
BY CAROL A.
Teacher's Guide to UNITED FOR A BETTER WORLD
Carol F. Kraut



EUROPE

Adult

REMEMBERING THE FUTURE: THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHURCHES IN EUROPE. *Robert C. Lodwick, Editor.*
Designed as a regional study tour, this book offers a survey of church situations in the British Isles, Latin Europe, Northern Europe, Central Europe, the Balkans and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Writers from all parts of Europe illuminate many fascinating subjects, including the complex ethno-religious conflict of the Balkans, signs of hope in Northern Ireland, and reflections on church-state issues in the former Communist nations. G5664 - $10.30

LEADER'S GUIDE TO EUROPE STUDY *by John O. Gooch.*
This guide focuses on ways to study the churches in Europe. It uses the book, *Remembering the Future*; an exciting new Map 'n' Facts, and the video, *Is Europe Still Christian?* Plans are offered for one or two-hour sessions, one day, or one weekend; or in a series of three or six sessions. Ideas for worship in congregations, pastor helps, special ideas for children, are included. G5665 - $5.70

MAP 'N' FACTS: EUROPE *by Kenneth Ziebell and Ruth Soffer.*
This unique full-colour map includes everything from Iceland to the Ural Mountains, northern Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. Using photos from deep space and computer technology, it shows the topography of the region as well as country borders and all major place names. On the back, eight panels provide information for more than 50 countries – capital, population, area, predominant religious traditions, economic indicators, plus information on ecumenical relationships in Europe, milestones of European and church history, several historical maps, and a glimpse of the diverse peoples of Europe. G5666 - $6.85

IS EUROPE STILL CHRISTIAN? *Video, 26 minutes*
This wide-ranging video looks at the paradox of the rejection in Europe of conventional religious expression while a hunger for personal spirituality grows. Study guide included. G5670 - $35.00

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Why Have a Mission Study on Europe?

From the Introduction to *Leader's Guide to Europe Study*

by John O. Gooch

EUROPE
Study

Why have a mission study on Europe? After all, Europe has been Christian for thousands of years. Europe was the center from which Christian faith spread to the Americas and Australia, and from which renewal movements sprang up in churches in Africa and Asia. Europe is the home of great cathedrals, great church music, great theologians and biblical scholars, home of the Reformation, the Vatican, the geographic heart of the Christian faith. So why is "Europe" the theme for a mission study?

There are several compelling reasons why Christians in Canada and the United States would study Europe as a mission theme.

1. For many, though certainly not all, of our churches, and the people in them, Europe is the homeland. There are emotional ties to the "old country," and to the churches of that country. This is true of Russian Orthodox, English Methodists, German and Swedish Lutherans, Italian Catholics, and on and on. We wonder about the church in Europe. This study will help those of us who have historical ties to European churches discover something of our heritage, and how our "cousins" in Europe are doing.

2. Since the end of World War II, we have heard about the decline of the church in Europe. We hear about secularization, the decline in church attendance, the "failure" of morals. This study will help us put that issue in perspective.

3. With the collapse of the Soviet Empire, there has been a resurgence of interest in Europe as a mission field. Churches in Canada and the United States have been eager to move into former Soviet bloc countries, including Russia, and "convert" the Communists. This study will help us discover both the opportunities for mission in eastern Europe and the need to move carefully, in full partnership with the churches that already exist in those countries, who have suffered terribly, but who continue to be viable institutions and faithful witnesses to God's grace.

4. Europe continues to be in the news. One day the news is about European "union," another day it is about the fall of a government in Italy, the murder of immigrants in Germany, the financial situation in England [, the Canada-Spain fishing controversy]. The news is about the siege of Sarajevo, nuclear weapons in Ukraine, civil wars with dissident groups in Russia, and the hope for real peace in Northern Ireland. The news is about film festivals in Cannes, fashions in Paris, the tunnel under the English Channel linking England and France. This study will not help us deal with all the political, economic, and social issues in Europe. It will help us discover how the churches are witnessing in the midst of all the confusion that is contemporary Europe.

. . . continued from page 21

The Church is the only organization in the world which exists for its non-members.

Archbishop William Temple

Canada also has to struggle and determine its future, if we want to be effective and productive witnesses for Jesus Christ in the 21st century.

In Central America, we met a Church which illustrates most effectively James' definition of religion, "What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world." (1:27) One cannot visit these Churches and not be touched by their enthusiasm, humbled by their commitment, and learn from their experiences and tangible expressions of faith.

Upon our return, three concerns of mine have surfaced and need to be addressed.

1. What of our Youth?

How often have I heard people say in Canada, "We need the young people, because the young people are the future of the Church." One does not have to be very smart to conclude today's youth will not be the Church of the future, unless we make it possible for them to be the Church of the present. And if we think that we are trying to include them in our day to day decisions, then why did a young man at a youth conference thank me for coming and "particularly for asking us", he said, "what **we** think" about a particular issue that was raised? All we have to do is love them and listen to them, consult with them and include them, and then, they too will be the Church – both for now and in the future.

2. Are we reaching out?

Archbishop William Temple, who died 50 years ago last fall, once said, "The Church is the only organization in the world which exists for its non-members." Do our respective congregations exist for the non-members?

What are we doing with people who attend worship sporadically? How do we handle those who "dropped out" – many of them for good reasons? What is our strategy towards an increasing number of people in our neighbourhoods, who have not grown up in the Church? Especially when we know that the folks outside the Church are looking for that missing link in their life. Listen to one of them. "My secret is that I need God – that I am sick and can no longer make it alone. I need God to help me give, because I no longer seem capable of giving, to help me to be kind as I no longer seem capable of kindness, to help me

Before we can experience "resurrections" in our individual and corporate life, certain aspects of our life and living have to die.

love, as I seem beyond being able to love." (Douglas Coupland, from his recent book "Life after God") Don't we have Good News for people like him? I certainly hope so.

3. What of "dying and rising"

Both in nature and in our theology, death and resurrection are essential. There is no resurrection without death. "There's no gain without pain", as someone put it. What is stopping us from practising this principle in our day to day life? Are we afraid of letting go and putting to death the forms and traditions that have outlived their usefulness?

Whether we like it or not, before we can experience "resurrections" in our individual and corporate life, certain aspects of our life and living have to die. As far out and as painful as that may be, it has to happen before we can experience and follow Him who "makes all things new." Jesus said, "Nor does anyone pour new wine into used wineskins, because the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins will be ruined. Instead, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins." (Mark 2:22) We need to discover new forms of communicating the faith, and new ways of telling "the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

Those old forms that delivered the faith to us, may need to die before that faith can be delivered to those living in the closing years of the 20th century. Provided that we "have complete confidence in the Gospel," (Romans 1:16) we can find new ways of communicating glad tidings to a world which needs it.

I believe in a God who called us and one who continues to see potential in us. The question is – are we prepared to accept God's challenge?

Forward In Faith

In Hebrews 3:13 we are exhorted to "encourage one another daily". The WMS, to provide encouragement to younger people, has approved small bursaries from endowment funds to five persons attending Knox College. A small grant has been allotted to assist another young person as she studies the language in Guatemala and observes the culture in order to do volunteer work there. As well, some funds have been provided from the Mary Whale fund to assist ten people to attend a Southern Africa Experiential/Exposure Tour. We anticipate some of these people will provide material for Glad Tidings on their experiences.

As a part of the Christian community, we are given many opportunities to demonstrate what our faith means to us and members of the WMS are doing that at all times. Let us keep on encouraging others and then, while we have accomplished much in the past, we shall achieve greater things in the future through our acceptance of the responsibility for proclaiming the Good News.

In writing to the church at Ephesus, Paul says (5:20) to always give thanks to God for everything. Along with encouragement, we have an opportunity to let others know just how much we appreciate their feats and so I thank God that already this year, as of March 30, 1995, the members of WMS have given $92,905 toward our 1995 objective of $1,153,290.

Action #55 as stated in the

Five-Year Plan, contained in "Threatened with Resurrection", calls for suggestions on methods of increasing givings. I am not recommending shaking people by their heels to see if loose change falls from their pockets but in a couple of previous columns, mention was made of a local "talent night", a Mission Fair, and personal goals. At a recent executive meeting, it was interesting to hear that one person had prepared a luncheon for members attending a meeting and suggested that each pay the amount they would have spent if the meal had been eaten at a commercial establishment (a past practice).

Another remarkable woman provided chocolate favours and intimated that if the recipients wished they could make a contribution to the WMS. She reported that it was a very successful method. One of the Presbyterials has raised a substantial amount by creating beautiful covers that will hold a full year's copies of Glad Tidings. Another woman at our meeting was creating key chains with plastic mesh and wool. These could be sold at a craft event.

Many groups still hold their "Thankoffering" meetings with special speakers, music, etc. and invitations are extended to others to join with them. A suggestion was given that we have a "Loonie" event with all loonies given to the WMS. This might encompass all the congregation (as well as kith and kin). A large city church designates its loose collections on several special Sundays throughout the year for WMS.

No doubt there are many other recommendations that our members could provide. Suggestions are often included in annual reports which are made available in each Presbyterial.

The last page of "Threatened with Resurrection" says "the task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us" and Annie Johnston Flint in the hymn "He Giveth More Grace" writes:

"When we have exhausted our store of endurance
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our Father's full giving is only begun."

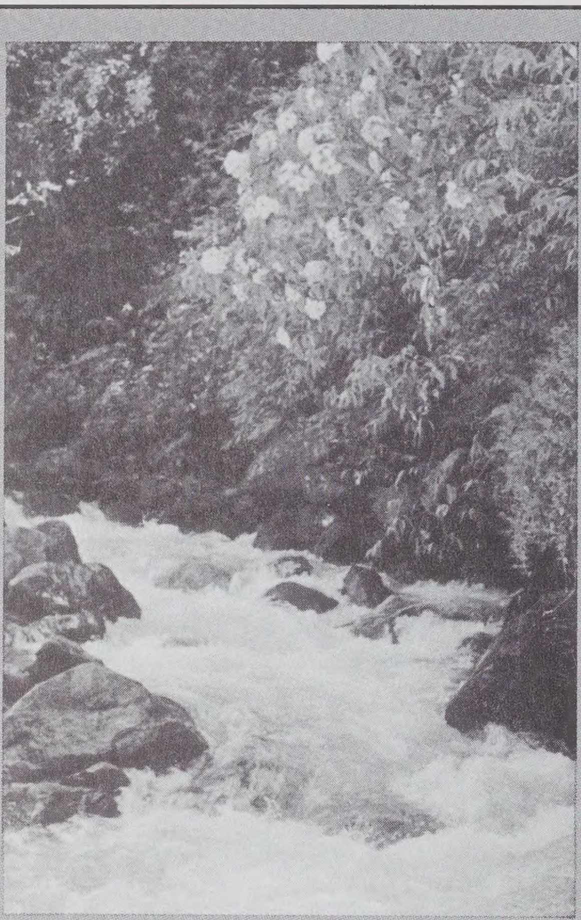
Truly we can "encourage each other daily", "thank God always", and go "Forward with greater faith".

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE GRANT

In 1994 a $400 grant was given by the Christian Literature Fund of the WMS to the Chinese Christian Literature Council.

The Publisher of the Council reports that "the new (Youth Praise) Vol. 1 will be published in mid-1995. We wish to provide a modern bilingual youth hymn book of high quality to all young Christians. The book (20th Century Religious Thought) Chinese edition is scheduled to be published by the end of 1995 or early 1996." Those interested in Western theologies and contemporary theological thoughts should not miss its coming.

"[Also,] from November 1994, we have expanded our consignment services to more churches. In the coming February and July, we shall participate [in] two different Book Fairs which are going to be held in the Hong Kong Convention Centre. These are good chances for us to exhibit our publications to the non-Christians. By sharing with more people of this pluralistic society, I believe that we may actualize our missions and goals."



Water Crisis in Kathmandu

by Gerald N. Kent

- The Melamchi River, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.

Thousands of years ago, the Kathmandu valley used to be a lake whose rich sediments now make up some of the most fertile farmland in the world. Water however is very scarce these days as close to one million people have crowded into the valley. The government of Nepal has not been able to keep up with the demand for water.

The situation in the dry season can become desperate, especially for the poor. A Nepali woman, Irmela, helps us with our housework. She lives with her husband and two children in one room in a building that houses five other families. Irmela told me that the building does not receive any water during the dry season. I asked her if she goes to a standpipe to get water. She said there was none nearby. My Nepali was not good enough to find out how she copes.

The water that is available is quite polluted. Water borne diseases are prevalent. The poor cannot afford to boil and filter their water so they have to endure repeated illnesses.

In 1981, Shiva Sharma had just completed six years in Moscow where he obtained his Bachelor of Engineering degree. A friend told him that Himal Hydro and General Construction Ltd. might be in need of engineers. Himal Hydro is a company whose major shareholders are the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) and His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN). So Shiva stopped by Himal Hydro's office one day and was hired right away. At that time Himal Hydro employed about six engineers and had about 25 employees in total.

Over the past 13 years Himal Hydro has successfully completed a number of tunnelling jobs. Shiva saw the capacity of the company and its Nepali staff steadily increase. He became convinced there was a Nepali solution to Kathmandu's water crisis. He read a feasibility study that said the best solution was to construct a 26 kilometer tunnel (the "Melamchi Tunnel") that would bring water within range of Kathmandu's water supply system. The cost estimate was based on international rates. But Shiva knew Himal Hydro could do it for far less using the skilled Nepali tunnellers in Himal Hydro who had been trained over the years.

So Shiva wrote newspaper articles. He spoke to the Prime Minister. He argued that Nepal had the capacity to solve the water supply problem itself. Expensive foreign contractors were not necessary.

In June, 1993, I finished UMN's language and orientation course and started work in UMN's Engineering and Industrial Development Department (EIDD). EIDD was sponsoring a management course called "Commitment in Action". During the first three days of the course, EIDD had to come up with an idea for a "breakthrough" project. My idea was to develop a proposal that a donor would consider which would assist in solving Kathmandu's water supply problems. The others rejected the idea. One member of the department scoffed and said: "Sure, a 75 kilometer tunnel is all they need." My pride was hurt. But God knows how to use our weaknesses.

Two weeks later, I had lunch with Shiva Sharma to talk about some matters which affected Himal Hydro. Quite unrelated to the topics we were discussing, he shared that he had recently met with the Prime Minister. He tried to persuade him to hire Himal Hydro and start work on the Melamchi Tunnel. Shiva also mentioned to me the newspaper articles he had written and his other efforts to get the work started. Naturally his idea caught my interest. I invited him to send me a copy of his newspaper articles. After reading them and the summary volume from the feasibility study, I became convinced that the Melamchi Tunnel was an essential component of any solution to Kathmandu's water supply problems.

I decided to help. I wrote to potential donors. We gave two presentations at UMN about the growth of Nepali capacity in its related companies. Nothing happened.

Others helped. P. P. Adhikari, a manager in one of the UMN related companies contacted some of his friends in HMGN, one of them a member of the National Planning Commission (NPC). That NPC member became interested and persuaded one of the potential donors, the United National Development Program (UNDP) to tentatively allot US $500,000 for a project which would assist in the arranging of financing for the Melamchi Tunnel.

But it got bogged down in UNDP. The idea was attacked by the foreign consultant who had done the feasibility study who was looking for some funding for his own project. The wording of the UNDP project document was also not satisfactory.

A UMN expat, Mike Francis was just finishing work on another major job. He became interested in Melamchi. An articulate Oxford graduate, he took on the task of redrafting the project document. The result was convincing. Even the World Bank, which was at first sceptical, decided to support the project.

Fifteen months after the lunch meeting with Shiva Sharma the project document was signed. UNDP

- *The Upper Melamchi valley in the area of the intake.*

will provide $850,000 to UMN for a bankable feasibility study and some initial tunnelling work. UMN will use its related companies to carry out the work.

Shiva Sharma was recently appointed the General Manager of Himal Hydro which now employs (if you include its subcontractors) over 2,000 people, including 50 engineers. His faith in the company and his commitment will be a major asset.

It will likely take about ten years before the Melamchi waters flow into Kathmandu and help relieve the suffering of the poor. However the tunnel should last for thousands of years. In about 700 BC, a tunnel was constructed which is 1,749 feet long to supply Jerusalem with water. It is still in use today.

The idea for the Melamchi tunnel originated with a Nepali engineer. It was another Nepali engineer, Shiva Sharma, who took the initiative and went out to find funding for the construction of the tunnel. In offering its assistance, UMN was able to carry out one of its most important functions: supporting worthwhile initiatives that offer Nepali solutions to Nepali problems.

A lot of work remains to be done and there are many hurdles that still must be faced. We very much need your prayers that the Melamchi tunnel will be completed and that it will be a real benefit for the poor of the Kathmandu valley.

- Gerald N. Kent has been seconded by the Presbyterian Church in Canada to the United Mission to Nepal where he serves as Director of UMN's Engineering and Industrial Development Department. He is also the UMN Team Leader for the UNDP funded Melamchi Project. He lives in Kathmandu with his wife and five children.

PCC Missionary Maxine Taylor reflects on the dark side of life for women and children in a land of breathtaking beauty. Relevant to 1994-95 study theme "Making the World Safe for Children".

Women's and Children's Issues in Nepal

by Maxine Taylor

In Nepal, the roles of women and children have remained the same for generations. Denied equal inheritance, a woman is dependent upon her father as a child, on her husband after marriage and on her sons in old age.

In the last four years, I have been encouraged by a growing awareness of women's struggles found in newspapers and publications in Kathmandu. This is possible because women are being educated, a few are writing and publishing; a few are acting politically.

"Nepali women have had their self-esteem suppressed for so long – but still they are rising!" As they voice their own concerns, they also write of the plight of Nepali children. Awareness is the beginning of change. I have chosen portions of some of these writings so we might share a deeper understanding with Nepali women as they struggle for change.

It is an accepted norm that women should remain homebound. For rural women this means within the home farm. Daughters are expected to be obedient, submissive, and domesticated. As 'daughters-in-laws' they are expected to serve and please their 'in-laws' and be submissive to them at all times. They marry a family, the principal relationship still being between the 'daughter-in-law' and 'mother-in-law', not husband and wife.[1]

For women, there is a dichotomy. On one hand there is the glorification of womanhood as evidenced by the Hindu Goddesses of Power, of Prosperity, and of Knowledge. On the other hand there is the degradation of women; the reality that most women have no power, no wealth or property, and no education.

If women working in both the formal and informal sectors were educated, it would be easier to bring about positive changes to all fields including health, environment, population, agriculture and forestry. The slogan adopted by International Literacy Day '91 was "Let us educate a woman; let us educate a nation!" If a woman is educated, its effect is felt by the entire family.... The emphasis on women's education and literacy will make the image of women prestigious.... Women would develop a sense of self-reliance with the growth of opportunities which education brings.... If women become literate, they are sure to become active participants in development activities.... Literacy involves not only

- The Taylors have been serving with the United Mission to Nepal. Craig is principal of a Secondary School for mission and expatriate children. Maxine was also teaching there but has returned to Alberta with their children, Shereen and Andrew to enable Shereen to finish high school.

recognizing words and numbers, but also becoming socially and politically aware.[2]

Women are on society's bottom rung. Everyone prefers sons to daughters. A daughter is, after all, something to make use of until she can be married off.... From the age of six, girls are expected to assist and support their mothers with the field and household chores. As wives and mothers they will be expected to do these same chores – nothing more, so no other training or education is needed.... The burden of work is always much heavier on women. There is so much work in the fields that women are tired when they return home, but even so, they have to cook, look after their children, and see to their household. They cannot give full attention to nutrition, consequently the health of the whole family deteriorates.... During the last three months of pregnancy it is recommended that women not do any physically strenuous work. Even so, the workload is such that if the women do not work their whole family will suffer, so dependent are they on her contribution.... We should pay more attention to preventative health care services by providing training to the traditional healers and care givers.... Women could use their own knowledge and skill if only they had more self-confidence and accurate information...in basic first-aid, nutrition, and health care.[2]

Through Non-formal Education Projects, the United Mission to Nepal is working in many rural areas fostering literacy classes, leadership training, preventative health care and overall empowerment for women. UMN is also involved in many and varied health projects: training health workers, rural clinics, hospitals, mental health, public health to name a few.

...Ultimately the country as a whole will suffer from consequences of the sex trade and the breakdown in values that it fosters unless the government develops a consistent and actively enforced policy on how to deal with the sex market, the urgent plight of child sex workers, and the related issues of child labor.... This publication is the first such effort in Nepal.... It is hoped that it will be of help to the many interested parties concerned.[3]

Bhimaiya Tamang is 13 years old, and she has never been to school. Like hundreds of other rural Nepali children, Bhimaiya works in her family's house and field. Her day starts at dawn when she sweeps the house, plasters the floor with fresh mud, fetches water from the well and cuts the grass for the cattle. The rest of her morning is spent helping her mother to cook the main meal of the day and then with the washing up. Bhimaiya's next job is to search for firewood. This takes most of the afternoon because the trees in her village are dwindling and she has to go further and further to find enough wood. By the time she returns in the evening she is hungry and exhausted. But her mother, who has worked other people's land all day, is busy with the baby and Bhimaiya must cook the evening meal for her mother and father, her two younger sisters and baby brother.... She will probably be married before she is 16 and then she will live with her in-laws. Her father says he would try to send his son to school but there is no point in educating Bhimaiya or her sisters because they will eventually work in someone else's home.[4]

As the biggest foreign currency earner and employer, the Carpet Industry is an important element of Nepal's future development and should be protected and promoted. But in what way and at what cost? The qualities of beautiful and magnificent hand-crafted Tibet-Nepal carpets contrast with the exploitation – long working hours, poor or no wages, malnutrition, ill health, unhygienic working conditions, child laborers living in high risk conditions. We must get beyond words and intentions and to the task of doing something concrete to promote and protect our children's

- Boy at brick yard

- Making gravel by hand

rights.... Children constitute about 50% of the total carpet workforce. These children are 5-16 years of age.... Besides children, the remainder of the carpet labor force consists mainly of women and young girls, with toddlers who are brought up in the factory environment.[5]

Maya Tamang's family is poor. She had eight brothers and sisters none of whom has ever been to school. 'Our family has a tiny plot of land in a village, a 10-hour bus ride from Kathmandu. We never had enough to eat and we children used to help with the housework and the work in the field. I had to gather firewood and fodder, look after the babies, plant, weed and harvest the field and graze the cattle. I was 11 years old when a man from our village told my parents that I could earn good money weaving carpets in Kathmandu. I was so excited; not only about going to the capital but because I would escape the hardship of life at home. My parents were happy to let me go.... I was trained in the factory for three months. At that time I was not paid but was given food and a space to sleep.... It's hard to move your fingers between the tight threads of a loom, it makes them numb. I'm used to it now but it's still painful. Our day begins around 6 a.m. We have electricity so we can start early and work late. We usually finish at about ten at night, but we have two, one-hour breaks. I get back aches and coughs. In winter my hands crack and bleed.' ...The salaries are usually kept by the employers, relatives or brokers and rarely do the children ever enjoy the fruits of their labors. Bonded children receive no pay.... The children usually work 10 to 16 hours per day in cramped positions where lighting is bad. Poor ventilation and wool dust create a health hazard. In spite of this over 90% of factories provide no medical care.[4]

Sanlu is just six years old and he has already been working at the stone quarry for over a year. Sanlu's parents and their six children all work at the quarry, breaking stones into chips by hammer to make gravel. Her work day lasts for nine hours and earns her d25 cents....

Surya is 14 years old. He shares a hut with others boys at a brick kiln. Together they dig up clay, knead it, mold it into bricks and sun-dry them. They can make 2500 bricks every day. Surya's share is $1.40 per day. To earn this much, he works from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m. When he returns to his own home at the end of the season, he will not be able to take back much money. Almost all that he earns goes to pay for the two meals he eats each day. [4]

Nepal is changing; a democratic government with a new constitution struggles with issues common to developing nations. New legislation now exists on paper that gives more rights to women and children, but the will or means to enforce these is still blocked with reluctance by those with power. Educated Nepalis are emerging as the Charles Dickenses, Wilberforces, and Nellie McClungs of Nepal. May we act with an awareness of other's struggles as we respond in the love of Christ.

References:
1. *Voices: The Family of Women in South Asia*
2. *Nepali Women Rising*
3. *Gender Exploitation and Violence: the Market in Women, Girls, and Sex in Nepal*
4. *Voice of Child Workers Newsletter*
5. *Misery Behind the Looms*
6. *Child Labor in Nepal*

Dear Friends

Peggy Reid & Dennis Single,
c/o Presbyfarms,
Box 2,
Itu, Akwa Ibom State,
Nigeria

August 1994

Our initial time in Nigeria has been one of seemingly never-ending adjustment. Just when we think we "might" be getting used to the place something else comes up to remind us that we don't have total control over many aspects of our stay here.

After a week "in transit" in and around the country, our home at Ikpa was ready for our occupation and with great anticipation we moved in. Unfortunately when we moved in, so did the sand-flies and bed bugs and so our first few weeks were spent counting our "spots" and wondering how to deal with the pesky little varmints. Kerosene and bug spray prevailed and the bed bugs have been eliminated and the sandflies decreased to a more manageable number.

Concurrently, we both developed spots from a staphyloccal infection. But it is truly amazing what a little ampicillan can do, and ten days later the spots were receding; only to be succeeded by a bout of malaria.

In the meantime, the rain "hit" and our water system (which consists of an overhead storage tank, which by gravity supplies the kitchen with water) decided to leak like the proverbial sieve, and so regardless of how much it rained the water tank was always empty within three hours. But we think we have the water tank fixed (after three attempts), and are now awaiting the next rains to see if the "patch" job will hold.

All of this adjusting and adapting [was] more challenging due to the fact that [there was] a petrol strike.

Dennis is working as manager of Presbyfarms, a huge palm oil plantation that used to be a leper colony. When not doing language study [Peggy] works as the minister of a three-point parish, is the advisor at the Mary Slessor Institute (a church run secondary school which is attempting to get off the ground), and in the fall will teach Christian Education to first year seminary students in English.

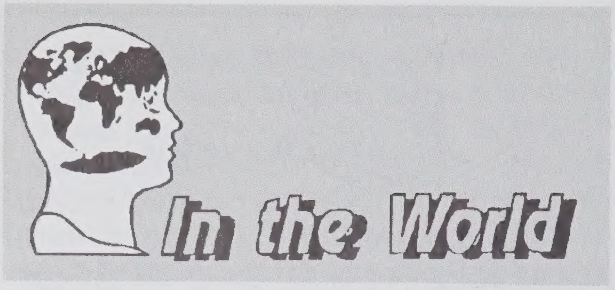
Blessings from Nigeria,
Peggy & Dennis

Birthdays

Overseas Staff

June
10 - Dick Paul, Zaire
10 - Joy Randall, Taiwan
15 - Wendy Lessard-Clouston, Japan
20 - Clarence McMullen, India
22 - George Loom, Kenya
22 - Rebecca Leona Onuoha, Nigeria
26 - Miriam Barrie, Malawi

July
2 - Jennifer Kent, Nepal
3 - Mark McLean, Taiwan
13 - Rose Janson, Malawi
19 - Ian Clark, Kenya
29 - Marie Rempel, Mauritius
30 - Brian Crosby, Mauritius



MOSCOW'S PLANNED CATHEDRAL PROJECT

Moscow, 13 January (ENI) – Russian Orthodox Church officials have defended a controversial project to rebuild the country's biggest Orthodox church, following a foundation ceremony on 7 January, during Russian Orthodox Christmas.

At the same time, Moscow's City Council plans to ask the Vatican to return the gold iconostasis alleged to have been taken from the church before it was destroyed 64 years ago.

The procession and unveiling ceremony at the 6.7 hectare site, in mid-Moscow, were led by the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II. The Russian premier, V. Chernomyrdin, and the mayor of Moscow, Y. Luzkov, also attended.

The Church of Christ the Saviour, with room for 10,000 worshippers, was opened in 1883 on the site of a former convent as a memorial to the Russian army's victory over Napoleon. Although officially financed by voluntary donations, 80 per cent of construction costs were believed to have been paid by the State Treasury under Tsars Aleksander I and Nicolas I.

The church was blown up in December 1931, in a 45-minute operation directed by Stalin's deputy, L. Kaganovich. Later work on a 400,000 square-metre Palace of Rulers on the site, with a 75-metre-high statue of Lenin, was never finished.

In the 1960s, after a Soviet commission had confirmed massive waste and corruption, the incomplete foundations were converted into a public swimming pool which later became popular with swimmers because of its heated water.

A Moscow Patriarchate spokesman, A. Jeliseyev, told ENI that both the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, and the State Duma (parliament) had pledged to support the project. After an expected four-year reconstruction the building would be dedicated as Moscow's new cathedral.

"It is not us, but the people of Russia who have decided to rebuild this church," Jeliseyev said. "Once completed, it will be a crucial symbol of our country's re-Christianisation, as well as a sign of rebirth for a new Russian church."

HONG KONG CHURCHES PLAN GROWTH

Geneva, 10 January (ENI) – Hong Kong's churches, despite some anxiety over 1997 handover of the colony from British to Beijing authorities, are already planning the growth of the churches after the change, according to a leading Lutheran churchman from the colony.

"Those [citizens of Hong Kong] who had the chance to emigrate have now gone, so now the atmosphere is more stable," said Tak Ho Lam, president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. "In a way we are more positive now, though there is some anxiety."

Lam described anxieties felt by the churches in Hong Kong about the 1997 handover, but stressed that the churches in the colony were already planning their future post-1997. He predicted closer cooperation among the churches as the date approaches.

Lam said that the Basic Law, agreed between the British and Chinese governments, guaranteed that there would be no interference in Hong Kong for 50 years.

However, he added, some people in Hong Kong feared that Beijing would adopt a strategy of using the views of some people within the churches to justify interference.

"As 1997 moves closer, we know we have to stick together," Lam said of the churches. – Edmund Doogue

SUPPORT OF GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Ottawa, February 15, 1995 – Gun control hurts no one, inconveniences few and contributes significantly to Canada's public safety and quality of life, says the Canadian Jewish Congress and a national Christian church coalition in support of current federal government proposals.

The CJC joins with The Church Council on Justice and Corrections to acknowledge there is broad public support by Canadians for measures to register firearms and a ban on certain handguns and military weapons – measures included in the legislation tabled by Justice Minister Allan Rock.

"Many polls have shown that Canadians favour increased regulation of firearms," observed Professor Gerald Gall, chair of the Congress' National Law and Social Action Committee. "This plan proposes a reasonable system for registering guns and places further restriction on the sale of ammunition."

CCJC president Edith Shore said "we believe that the majority of Canadians support gun control and cherish it as one value that contributes significantly to the relatively safe society in which we live. We note with concern recent news reports which indicate that, in the United States, gun-related deaths are expected to surpass deaths from automobile accidents in the next year or so."

The Congress and Church Council both endorse the Coalition for Gun Control which points out that over 1400 Canadians are killed each year with guns, most of them legally owned.

PRIORITIES FOR WOMEN

Ottawa – Glenda Simms, President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, issued this statement, identifying key areas of federal action that will affect women in 1995.

"This year we can expect some major social program and economic policy reforms at the federal level. It is extremely important that the government view these reforms as opportunities to advance women's status. Women are not a special interest group, we are 52% of the population, and we insist on parity," says Simms.

"Nineteen ninety-five is extremely significant for women because of federal legislative initiatives, and because in September, the Fourth UN World Conference on Women will be held in Beijing, China. Participants from around the world will meet to scrutinize the progress of women and to set goals for development for the next decade. Canada's treatment of women, like that of other countries, will be under the microscope," says Simms.

"Although women have made some gains in the past decade, we still earn only 72 cents for every man's dollar, are still segregated largely into low-paying jobs, and still carry a disproportionate share of work and family responsibilities. Violence against women is being talked about, but it is still all too common. Racial minority, Aboriginal and disabled women are particularly at risk of being poor and mistreated in Canada," Simms adds.

In the Society

PRESBYTERIAL

The Annual Meeting of **Central Alberta** Presbyterial was held February 6 at St. Andrew's Church, West Park, Red Deer. The theme was *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self control....*

Opening devotions were given by Irwin Cunningham. Anna Cunningham, President welcomed members and constituted the meeting. Betty Brown led a fitting memorial service based on the hymn "Gathering flowers for the Master's bouquet".

Synodical president Norma Proudfoot brought greetings.

The afternoon session included a solo by Mary Duncan and a skit by Betty Eshpeter and Jeanne Harrison, followed by a presentation of 'Voices from Africa' letters.

Norma Proudfoot installed the incoming officers and Anja Oostenbrink gave the benediction.

- L to r: Anna Cunningham, immediate past president, Mary Duncan, President, recipient of Life Membership Certificate and Ruth Richards who presented certificate.

Hazel McGraw, president, presided over the 44th Annual Meeting of the **Niagara** Presbyterial held at Scottlea Church, St. Catharines. Rev. Dennis Carrothers, minister, welcomed members and the theme was *Speak of what we know.* Opening devotions were led by Bonnie Roland and Helen McLeish.

Norma Goldsmith, Welland, introduced several methods of presenting the 1995 mission study. Each officer presented her report under the headings, Strength - Weaknesses - Action - Thanksgiving.

Mrs. W. J. McKeown, Niagara Falls, conducted the election and installation of officers.

The Annual Meeting of **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial was held in St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, February 7, 1995 with the theme on stewardship. Rev. Susan Shaffer, associate minister of St. Andrew's gave the meditation and Helen Brisbin, President of St. Andrew's WMS welcomed everyone. Dorothy McCombie brought greetings from Synodical.

An "In Memoriam" service was conducted by Ann Endicott, Guelph, and Ethelyne Fulkerson sang a lovely solo accompanied by Mabel Irving.

Dorothy McCombie introduced guest speaker, Wilma Welsh, from the staff of International Ministries, PCC. Wilma spoke of her visit to Central America, telling how our monies to "Presbyterians Sharing" and "PWS&D" help in providing supplies for schools, etc.

Courtesies were given by Marjorie Scott and the officers were installed by Margaret Griesbach. The meeting closed with a devotion by the new President, Dorothy McCombie.

The **Montreal** Presbyterial held an open executive meeting at St. Andrew and St. Paul Church, Montreal, Quebec, January 11, 1995. This meeting, presided over by President

Lois Klempa, was held to honour ten women who for a great many years gave of their time and talent to the WMS. A profile was read of each woman and they were given an orchid corsage before each responded.

A booklet will be presented to them describing their accomplishments and with pictures taken that day. Refreshments included a special cake with their names on it.

- Left to right: Doris Blaise, Rev. Kate Jordan and Jean Ferguson.

The Annual Meeting of **Peterborough** Presbyterial was hosted by the WMS of St. Giles Church on January 19. Presbyterial president Jean Montgomery opened with prayer while a rousing hymn sing was led by Helen King and Jackie Kelly. Rev. R. M. Gellatly welcomed everyone.

A musical number on piano was given by Thelma Atkinson. Jean Montgomery introduced the morning speaker, Gordon Farquharson, a retired lawyer and member of St. Paul's Church who spoke on the theme, *How to leave a bequest to the church.*

In the afternoon Tamiko Corbett, executive secretary of the WMS discussed the Five-Year Plan of the WMS. Following a discussion from both a local and national perspective, Tamiko collected reports from each group on opportunities that they could see God opening up.

A memorial service was conducted by the Cobourg Centennial group. Worship was given by the Centreville group. The 1995-96 executive was installed.

The Annual Meeting of **Brockville** Presbyterial was held January 24 in Cowper Hall, Spencerville, Ontario. Theme was *Focus on Mission*. President Mary Moorhead welcomed everyone.

Devotions were given by Marie Purvis of the Brockville Afternoon Group based on Jeremiah 32:15 and 33:12-14. Catherine Blatch, Morrisburg outlined the book table. The president described the WMS Five-Year Plan. AEC Ann Milne presented the 1994-95 mission studies. Mrs. Dickey, Prescott conducted a short In Memoriam Service. Lois Beeton closed the morning devotions in prayer.

Afternoon devotions were given by Donna Wilson, Winchester, based on Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Speaker, Orma Earl, spoke on Ethiopia which she and her husband had visited recently.

New officers were installed by Synodical President Gloria Purcell. Margaret Reynolds, Morrisburg, will be the new president. Donna Wilson presented an Honorary Life Membership scroll and WMS pin to retiring president Mary Moorhead.

The 81st Annual Meeting of **London** Presbyterial was held at Trinity Place, Trinity Church, London. Eleanor McMillan constituted the meeting and Rev. John Herman, minister at Trinity, welcomed those present.

Bible study on *Attitude*, the theme for the day, was taken by Margaret Greig, AEC. Eva Murray and Heather Morton led the music. Devotions were taken by the women of Crinan Church.

Jean Middleton, Mt. Brydges, introduced guest speaker, Rev. Rick Fee, who spoke on his work in Africa through Presbyterian World Service and Development.

Rev. Fred Neill of Bethel Church, installed the officers for 1995-96. Margaret McCullough, incoming President, asked for everyone's support.

Prayer by Rev. John Herman brought an enjoyable day to a close.

The **Sarnia** Presbyterial Annual Meeting was hosted by St. Andrew's, Sarnia, on January 21st, with president Bonnie Arbour presiding. The host minister, Rev. Ronald Archer, gave words of welcome and opened with prayer.

Marjorie Ross of International Ministries, PCC was the morning speaker, showing slides of Africa. The booklet "Threatened by Resurrection" was reviewed in the afternoon by Margaret MacDonald. Special music was rendered by *The Trebletones*. The installation of officers was conducted by Sophie Jackson. The closing worship was by women of Wyoming.

WMS Song

Our mission is to 'Go and Tell',
Spread God's word and praise His name.
Our purpose is to seek God's will
To serve Him is our aim.
To teach His grace to every race
And help their unbelieving:
With grateful hearts we know His love
We'll always be receiving.

We pray for peace throughout the world,
For justice and compassion:
With faith and hope we'll worship God
And praise His name forever.

- The above is an original writing by Gladys Balsdon, a member of St. Andrew's WMS, Newmarket. At the Spring Rally of the Presbyterial of Oak Ridges, when each group was required to respond to the Roll Call with a poem, song, reading or skit, this poem was sung by the members to the tune of "The Maple Leaf Forever".

The 81st Annual Meeting of **Glengarry** Presbyterial was held in Knox Church, Vankleek Hill, January 17.

President Shelagh MacDougall constituted the meeting and Sheila Paterson, President of Knox WMS welcomed everyone.

Worship on *Prayer* was conducted by St. John's WMS, Cornwall, led by Annie MacRae. Gloria Purcell, Synodical President brought greetings and her husband, James Purcell, brought greetings as Interim Moderator of Seaway-Glengarry Presbytery. Ann Milne, AEC, spoke of her work in this area, and later presided for the Installation of Officers.

Marianne MacDonald, Vankleek Hill, introduced guest speaker, Sister Jeanette, of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Mary who told of the miraculous evacuation of nuns from their mission in Rwanda during the civil war last summer.

Annabelle Hartrick, Dunvegan, thanked Sister Jeanette and a special collection was taken in support of the Rwandan mission.

Following lunch, Vera MacEwen led in a Hymn Sing.

Newly-elected President, Lorna MacGregor closed the meeting with prayer.

Knox Church in Cranbrook hosted the 80th Annual Meeting of **Kootenay** Presbyterial in 1994. For the third consecutive year it was jointly held with Presbytery. Presbyterial president Frances Rivers welcomed the guests which included Agnes Hislop and then Synodical president Yvonne Calderwood.

Agnes spoke of her work in India where she had served over thirty years as missionary. Speaking to the Presbyterial and Presbytery from John 15, she stressed that God has chosen us to bear fruit.

Yvonne brought greetings from Synodical and gave us current WMS information.

At the fall meeting again held at Knox, Alice Foubister reported on her time as a delegate at Council.

Two former Creston WMS members became an auxiliary to the Cranbrook group and continue to serve on the executive. The Kootenays are very encouraged with the prospect of several younger members showing an interest in mission, and anticipate growth in our groups.

Irene Jarrett, pictured below, of Kimberly installed the officers.

* * *

HIGHLIGHT OF NOTE:
Stop, Think, Act and Review! These are the code words for the Star Power program for dealing effectively with conflicts that the Lucknow Public School teachers and students adapted three years ago. Teacher Joan Black, assisted by four Grade 8 students made a presentation of this program at the Annual Meeting of **Maitland** Presbyterial held in St. Andrew's Church, Wingham on January 23rd.

Agnes Bregman brought greetings from Synodical and Council, and also presented an outline of the Five-Year Plan.

Greetings from Presbytery were given by Rev. Rod Lamb of Paisley and Glammis. The theme for the afternoon program was *Our Children - The Church of the Future* and was opened by President Erlma Haldenby reading a poem "Balloons Belong in Church". Ripley women gave the devotions on "Hands". Mary Wray was assisted by Laura MacDonald reading the scripture and Joan MacKay led in prayer. The video "Today's Africa" was introduced.

Agnes Bregman installed the officers for 1995. New President Mildred Dupont closed the meeting.

* * *

Stratford-Huron Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting in Knox Church, Stratford, Ontario on February 20. President, Robina Alexander, Listowel, opened with the call to worship. Anne Bain and Audrey Douglas, Avonton, gave the devotions based on the theme, *Stand Up and Be Counted.*

Mary Scott welcomed everyone on behalf of the Mary, Martha and Gordon WMS from Knox, and Rev. Norman Morton welcomed everyone on behalf of the church. Roy McKay, the first lay-moderator of Stratford-Huron Presbytery, brought greetings on behalf of Presbytery.

The afternoon began with a

hymn sing led by Grace Severt with Margaret McIntyre at the piano. Grace sang a solo. Shirley Aitchison and Barbara McKay of the Avonton evening auxiliary gave the devotions. The roll call was answered by telling how each group was going to educate and promote mission.

AEC, Margaret Greig, led a bible study on attitudes. She showed slides and spoke on her trip with five others from Elmwood Church in London to take money to build a school in Guatemala. They also visited Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Eleanor Stevenson, Cranbrook, led the "In Memoriam" service.

The officers for 1995 were installed by the president of Hamilton-London Synodical, Agnes Bregman, Teeswater.

Courtesy remarks were given by Madeleine Edward, Goderich.

The 81st Annual Meeting of **Vancouver Island** Presbyterial was held February 7, 1995, at Knox Church, Victoria, the theme *Love in Action* (Matthew 25:34-40).

Flora Whiteford led the morning worship (I Cor. 13) and included readings from Glad Tidings.

President Abbie Thompson welcomed members and constituted the meeting with prayer. Synodical President Laurie Jackson brought greetings from Synodical and spoke on the Five-Year Plan.

Following business and reports, luncheon was served by Knox WMS. A wide variety of books was displayed, arranged by Edith Maugham of Sooke.

In the afternoon Win Thomas gave a very moving Memorial Service. Madge Macleod introduced guest speaker, Rev. David Stewart, who spoke on the work of the Upper Room Society which has been reaching out to the needy in Victoria for over 30 years.

The 1995-96 Executive was installed by Laurie Jackson. Abbie Thompson gave the closing remarks followed by tea and farewells.

Also attending the meeting was Lois Cleeton, a long time supporter of the WMS, who is celebrating her 101st year.

West Toronto Presbyterial held its 81st Annual Meeting on February 18 in Albion Gardens Church. President, Bev McWhinnie conducted the meeting. The theme was from Luke 14:23 *Go out into the roads – and make them come in.*

Marion Watt accompanied by organist Mary Richardson delighted the group with her beautiful solo. Dorothy Clark, Literature Secretary reviewed books from the Book Table. A mission profile and prayer were given by Marjorie McMullen. The morning speaker was Catherine Anderson of Evangel Hall who told of work in that mission.

After lunch Lynda Reid, AEC, spoke on the Five-Year Plan. An Honorary Membership was presented to Lynn Evans, Youth and Children's Secretary. Greetings were brought from Kay Cowper, President, Council Executive; Jean Dancey, President, Toronto-Kingston Synodical; and Giollo Kelly, President, East Toronto Presbyterial. Lynda Reid installed the officers for 1995.

New Beginnings was the theme of the **Saskatoon** Presbyterial held at Calvin-Goforth Church on February 25. Co-presidents Yoka de Bruijn and Deneke Kraay welcomed everybody. Rev. Walter Donovan took the morning devotion using Isaiah 43:18-19 as his text. Discussion of the proposed Five-Year Plan followed reports.

Guest speakers Stewart and Terry Folster spoke on "Minority

Issues and Mission Strategies." They had been guests of the Korean Christian Church in Japan in October 1994 along with minority groups from other countries. A collection was taken and given to the Folsters for use in their native ministry work.

Mrs. E. McKinnon gave a memorial service for deceased members. A gift presentation was made by Margaret Campbell to departing AEC Donna Wilkinson, who will be greatly missed in Saskatchewan. Donna performed her final duty by installing the new Presbyterial officers.

The 113th Annual Meeting of **Lindsay** Presbyterial was recently held at Knox Church, Cannington, Ontario.

The meeting was constituted by President June Nesbitt, and Lily Harvey of the Cannington Group welcomed everyone. A welcome was also extended by Rev. Nan St. Louis on behalf of Knox, Cannington.

Opening worship was led by Joan Snider and Alva King of Lindsay WMS.

AEC Lynda Reid gave an update on the Five-Year Plan of the WMS.

Helen Torrey installed the new officers. Rev. Mary Whitson closed the morning session and asked grace.

The afternoon worship service and In Memoriam was led by Elsie Giles and Helen Harrison.

Speaker for the afternoon was Ann Austin Cardwell, President of the Women's Inter Church Council.

Margarite Miller did the courtesies and Rev. Marshall Jess closed the meeting with prayer.

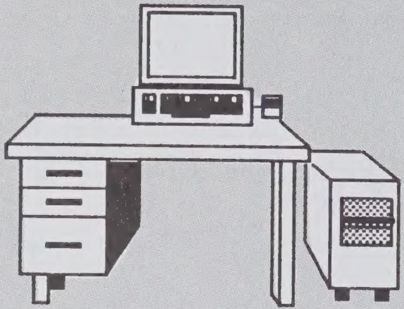
LOCAL

At **Ashfield** Church, **Ashfield**, Ontario a large crowd gathered for a farewell party to honour Rev. Hugh and Frances Nugent before they left for a ministerial charge at Fort Frances, Ontario. On behalf of the WMS, President Helen MacLennan thanked Frances for her help and faithful service to the Society. They were presented with a hand crafted quilt and matching pillows.

- Frances Nugent, left, and Hugh, right with their grandchildren.

The 110 Anniversary of **Knox** WMS, **North Easthope, Shakespeare,** Ontario was held on Sunday, October 23, 1994 which included a Special Mission Church Service with guest speakers David and Miriam Barrie sharing their experiences (as missionaries) in Malawi. Our Church family enjoyed a delicious meal and afternoon of music, stories and slides held at the North Easthope Township Hall.

- Left to right: Miriam Barrie, WMS President Christina Fryfogel and David Barrie shown cutting the anniversary cake.



Circulation News

Has your group elected a new Glad Tidings Secretary during the year? If so, please let us know by mid-July so that we can send our fall mailing (which will be mailed the beginning of August) to the proper source. Don't forget to include the name of the congregation and group number when corresponding. It is helpful to know the name of the secretary or contact person in case we need to be in contact with the group during the year.

This is a good time of year to plan your promotion of the Glad Tidings for next fall. We can supply you with up to 50 copies of the magazine for promotion within your congregation. Please contact the Glad Tidings office indicating the number of copies and name of congregation.

For anyone subscribing during the year, and wishing to begin with the January/February issue, we will send the subscriber back copies. New subscribers, however, may begin at any time. To determine the cost, divide the subscription rate by six ($1.40 a copy including GST) and multiply by the number of remaining issues in the year e.g. 4 x $1.40 = $5.60. Then send this amount with the subscription.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

Helen Margaret Whitson, born January 17, 1927 lost her courageous battle with cancer on December 21, 1994. She was a long-time active member of St. Andrew's Church, **Saskatoon**.

Helen was a graduate of Toronto General Hospital. She received her BSN from University of Saskatchewan and worked at hospitals in Tisdale, Calgary and Saskatoon. She enjoyed nursing. Her compassion was evident on wards, as a Head Nurse and latterly as Infection Control Officer.

Helen was a Life Member of the Hildur Hermanson Auxiliary of the WMS. She was a long-time elder of St. Andrew's, Saskatoon and was chairperson of the Christian Education Committee.

Surviving are two sisters, Jean (Jack) Harstone of St. Albert, Alberta and Marjorie of Mississauga, Ontario; a brother Harold (Mary) of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; two nieces and two nephews, and a host of friends.

Photo: Doris Bryant

- Gertrude Robertson is shown celebrating her 105th birthday with great-great-great nephews at St. Andrew's, Windsor. Gertrude still supports the Laura Pelton WMS.

OUR READERS Write

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

First of all, from one "southpaw" to another - many thanks indeed for the delightful "Setting Things *Left*!" in the March/April issue - I loved it.

M.R., Port Colborne, ON

Dear Friend:

The new format of the Glad Tidings is very, very good – the Easter service looks lovely. There is so much information in each edition – and inspiring too!

Tell June not to worry about being left-handed – I have been told they are exceptionally clever people. Also a left-handshake is the way the Boy Scouts greet each other and it is from the 'heart-side' – so just shake hands with both hands and be glad you can! As long as no one asks you to get them a 'left-handed screw driver' be grateful – and adjust everything else accordingly. Good luck!

Keep up your wonderful work and we trust the cut-backs are not too drastic – you are doing remarkably well under the circumstances.

M. E. McN., Gravenhurst, ON

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Frances I. Sherritt,
Knox, Burlington, Ont.

Mrs. Rie Van Brummelen,
Grace, Calgary, Alta.

Mrs. Frances Stewart,
St. Andrew's, Carleton Place, Ont.

Mrs. Muriel Vitek,
St. Stephen's, Creston, B.C.

Mrs. Kathleen Mae Simpson,
Knox, Guelph, Ont.

Mrs. Mabel Irving,
St. Andrew's, Guelph, Ont.

Helena Day,
St. Columba, Hamilton, Ont.

Victoria Ford,
St. Andrew's, Innisfail, Alta.

Mrs. Margaret Simpson,
St. David's, Kelowna, B.C.

Sarah Ellen McKellar,
Miss Jessie Weir,
New St. James, London, Ont.

Mrs. Anabel Potter,
Knox, Mitchell, Ont.

Mrs. Anne "Nan" Bain,
Knox, Morrisburg, Ont.

Mrs. George (Jessie) Brown, Sr.,
Mrs. Margaret Hesse,
First, Port Colborne, Ont.

Lillian Horowitz,
St. Paul's, Port Hope, Ont.
(also St. Andrew's, Cobourg, Ont.)

Mrs. Lil McJannet,
First, Regina, Sask.
(formerly St. James, Winnipeg, Man.)

Mrs. Gordon (Dorothy) Anderson,
Renfrew, Ont.

Mrs. Edna Combe,
Rockway, Ont.

Mrs. Blanche McCallum,
Knox, (Kintyre), Rodney, Ont.

Mrs. Christine Jacobson,
Westminster, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Mrs. Gertie Manley,
St. Andrew's, Southampton, Ont.

Mrs. Edwin (Marion) Eagleson,
Mrs. Wm. (Geraldine) Morrison,
Centreville, South Monaghan, Ont.

Mrs. Jeane Ferguson,
(wife of Rev. James Ferguson)
St. Andrew's, Stratford, Ont.

Mary Schurr,
Stroud, Ont.

Mrs. Beatrice McLean,
(mother of Jean Snider, Esther Powell, Evelyn Snider, Dorothy Johnston, and wife of the late Rev. Alexander McLean)
Thornhill, Ont.

Mrs. Cathie Laubenstein,
Knox, Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Ross (Greta) Adams,
Mrs. Doug (Elsie) McCaw
St. Andrew's, Welland, Ont.

Mrs. Doris R. Yungblut,
Knox, Woodstock, Ont.

Sing on the Mountains

Let me run
as a gazelle
over mountains:
where my feet
touch land
let fire catch
until the hills
are alight
with psalms
of David.

Joanna M. Weston

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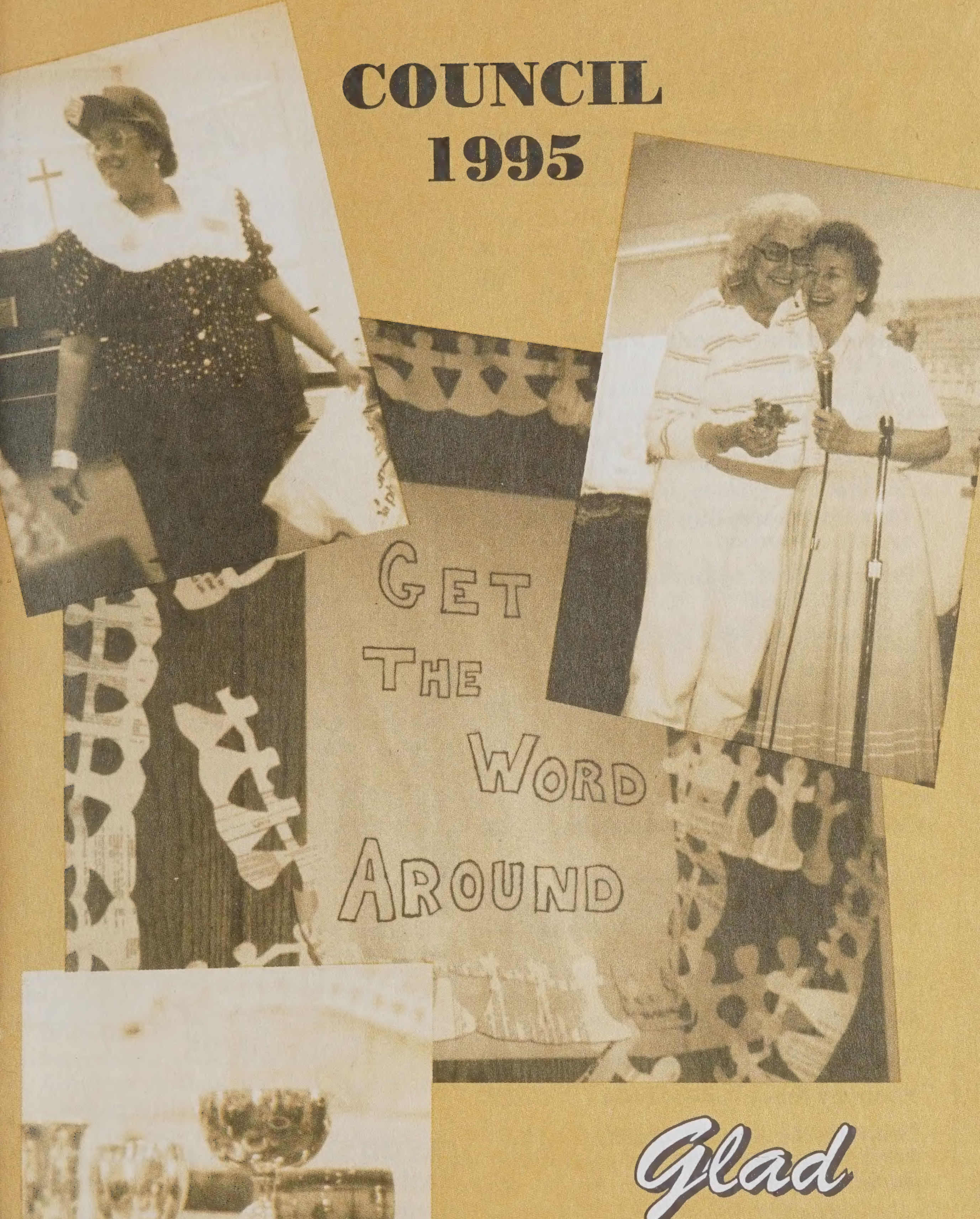
COUNCIL
1995



GET
THE
WORD
AROUND

Glad Tidings

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Glad Tidings

JULY/AUGUST 1995 Vol. 71 No.4

L. JUNE STEVENSON
EDITOR

KATHERINE ALLEN
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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Council '95
Pages 4-9

CREDITS: Council photos by Katherine Allen, Lynda Reid, June Stevenson. Cover – top left: Gloria Kennedy; top right: Eleanor Irwin and Rosemary Doran; centre: Council theme; bottom left: Communion elements.

July/August 1995

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins.... Mark 2:21-22a

Letting Go of the Old

One thing I learned to do when growing up was how to sew on a patch that would not tear away. My children marvel at my knowledge and as I try to teach them, I tell them I learned this from my mother, and from experience. My mother learned it from her mother, who probably learned it from my great-grandmother. In those days, patching was a necessity. Anyone who grew up during the two World Wars or during the Depression had no choice but to make do or repair.

One of the thrills of my childhood days was to go to the shoemaker's, often with a pair of my dad's oxfords to be re-heeled or re-soled. The shoemaker seemed a mysterious, awesome figure as he worked at his wheel, aproned and muscular. I had to stand on tiptoes to reach the top of the wooden counter. The shop had an unfamiliar, leathery smell.

The need to repair, remodel, renovate or restore is strong within me. I like to refinish furniture and to do crafts out of scraps. I will keep something for months, even years, trying to find the time to fix it, and spend hours finding out how best to do the job. Now second-hand shops, garage sales and recycling make it possible for me to discard things without guilt. For there comes a time when one has to let go of the old, to say that cannot be fixed, and move to something new.

This is such a time for the WMS, and for the Church. We cannot continue to put new patches on old cloth or to put new wine into old wineskins. Wineskins become brittle with age and lose their elasticity. Finally the skins crack and the new wine is wasted.

New wineskins are supple and flexible, allowing the wine to breathe and ferment. A wineskin is like a womb that expands for the new life within. The feminine analogy may be most apt for it has been women who traditionally have become skilled at patching and renovating, often in order to keep their families clothed and fed. It is women who can be most resourceful when confronted with the need to change.

The Spirit is moving among God's people today, among the Women's Missionary Society, stirring it to new challenges and to new forms of being. Will we, like ostriches, bury our heads in the mire of tradition and say, "We've never done it that way before!"? Or will we, like Samuel, respond in faith, saying, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." (1Samuel 3:9b)

Written in Love June

COUNCIL 1995

May 28 - 31, Crieff Hills, Ontario

"Get the Word Around"

The 1995 Annual Council Meeting had a relaxed format. The setting was the Presbyterian Retreat and Conference Centre at Crieff Hills, Ontario, and delegates came with casual clothes and walking shoes. Once the rain had cleared away, the sound of birds could be heard and the air was filled with the scent of lilacs.

Council opened on the **Sunday** after dinner with a getting acquainted exercise developed by the Publicity Committee as a result of last year's action plans. People had to quiz other delegates, guests and resource people in order to fill in the blank squares on their papers. Questions included finding a former editor of Glad Tidings (May Nutt, Helen Young) and a mother of twins (Karen Timbers). Previous delegates and seventeen new delegates got acquainted very quickly.

Each Synodical then introduced itself through stories, skits or songs. When the laughter died down, everyone agreed the creativity made for an opening of camaraderie and cheer.

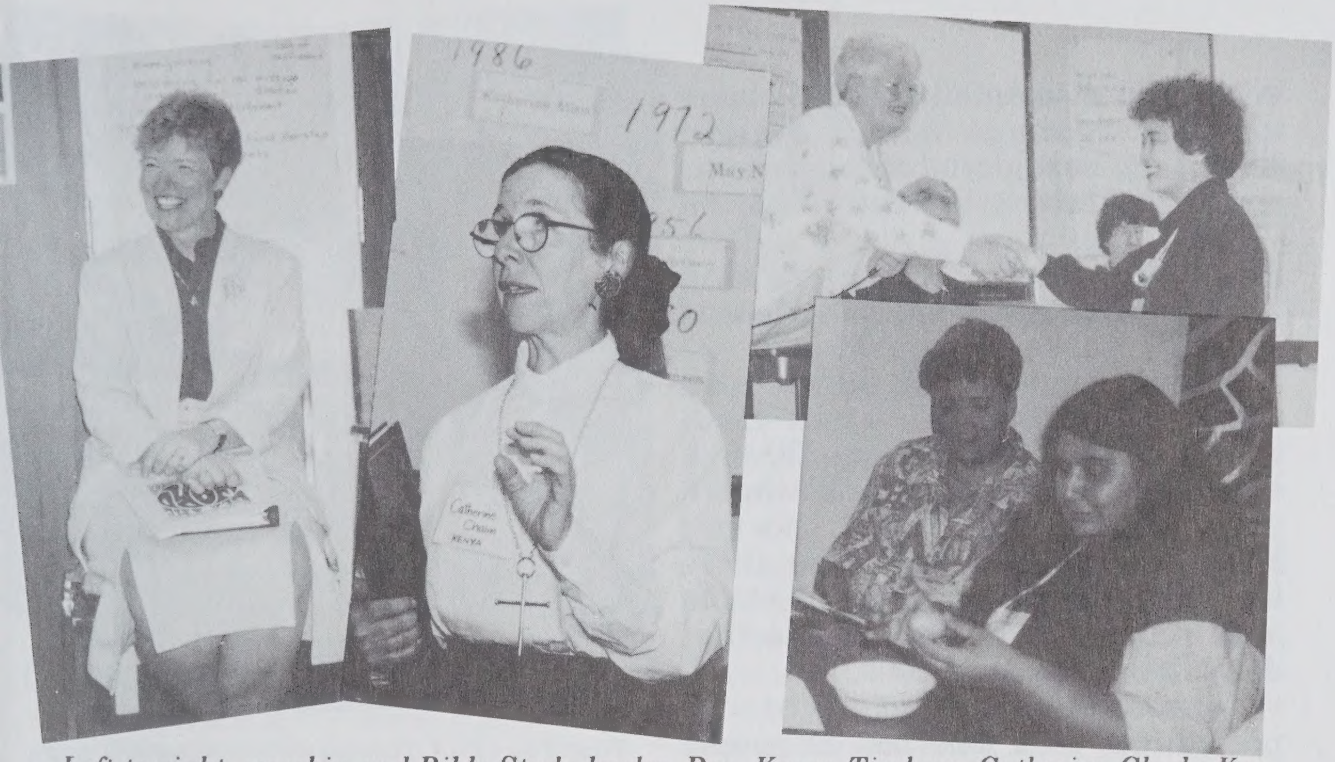
The next section of the program was led by the convenor of the Personnel Committee, Catherine Bray who commented that the energy in the first section illustrated the fact that the Society was in the process of breaking moulds, building bridges and linking past faithfulness to future possibilities. This made a transition to celebrating the work of area resource persons who are not remaining with the society and to introducing newly hired resource people.

Rosemary Doran read from 1 Corinthians 12 on spiritual gifts, then in her meditation celebrated the gifts that people have used and offered back to God. She said that the Society and the Church has come to a "moment of change" – a change in the pattern of doing our work. Some staff are remaining, new staff are being welcomed and others are moving to new areas of work, but all are going *forward in faith*.

Rosemary gave a brief history of area work beginning in 1904, emphasizing that the Society has survived many changes. There has been much variety in our history, much change has taken place, and we need to watch for the new things that God is going to do.

Following worship, Anja Oostenbrink and Donna Wilkinson, Area Educational Consultants for Alberta and Saskatchewan, respectively, were presented with a gift and best wishes in the future as they leave the Society. Minutes of appreciation for them and for Blake Carter, who couldn't be present, were read.

Special guests May Nutt and Helen Tetley were introduced. It was noted that two past presidents were among Council delegates, Isabella Hunter and Eileen Parish. Helen Scott Sinclair was congratulated on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of her area work in the west. Happy Birthday was sung for Anja and Lynda Reid, AEC, who both had birthdays at the end of May. Everyone then enjoyed a piece of birthday cake.



- Left to right, worship and Bible Study leader, Rev. Karen Timbers, Catherine Clark; Kay Cowper presenting Song, Bok Hee with Life Membership; and Janet Tremblay preparing to crush the eggshell.

Morning Worship and Bible Study

Rev. Karen Timbers, minister at Elmwood Avenue Church, London, Ontario, and former Area Educational Consultant for the Society, was this year's worship and bible study leader. The first hour and a half of each morning was devoted to worship and study with delegates divided into table groups at which they sat throughout. As advance preparation, delegates were asked to read Loren Mead's book, *The Once and Future Church*.

In her opening worship on **Monday**, Karen used a personal example to explain what a paradigm shift means. She spoke of her father's death and how her life changed irrevocably from that moment. She noted that we cling to beliefs, as she did, that her father would always be there, and that it is difficult to come to terms with the new reality. We pass through stages of grieving, but eventually we arrive at a richer, more exciting time when we are able to celebrate, like the Israelites during their exodus or the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration.

The WMS has been thrust into the wilderness, or onto the mountain, into grieving "in between" times, Karen said. It is important to remember that we have always come through and that the experience has been powerful and rewarding.

During the Monday bible study, delegates looked at examples in the Bible illustrating the kind of dramatic shift that occurs within people regarding the way they view themselves and the world around them. While many feared the changes, they all came to see that God had not deserted them but had in actual fact been in the process of transformation and in the new worldview that emerged.

Delegates then looked at the many transitions the WMS has gone through, and how it has evolved and changed although its purpose has remained the same. In a dramatic activity each group crushed a whole eggshell which represented the

WMS and attempted to put it back together again in a new design. They then considered what this exercise says about the future of the WMS.

Karen closed the first morning worship with a moving parable and prayer.

Tuesday morning began with each delegate being given a cardboard roll and asked to look through it to help them understand what a paradigm is like. While the roll helps us focus as a kind of lens, there is a danger it will narrow our vision and make us blind to things that don't fit our focussed view.

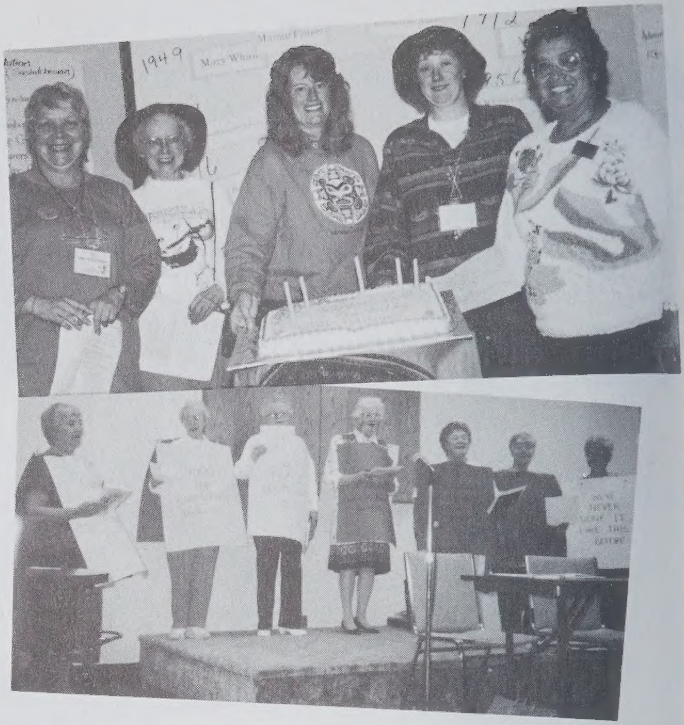
Karen stressed that we are all prejudiced, that we exclude people outside our own view. Using the scripture from Judges 11, Karen told the story of Jepthah, the warrior, who was prepared to sacrifice anything, even his own daughter to carry out his promise, illustrating the fact that a paradigm can bring about destruction and death.

It is also the story of a daughter's devotion, she said, a daughter who was willing to die to preserve her father's honor.

Knowing she was to die, Jepthah's daughter asked for time to go away with her sisters to lament her fate. So we need to be there for each other in "sisterhood" in hard times.

Women have been marginalized by the Church, and sometime's like the daughter of Jepthah, have let it happen. Women have to shatter that world view, step out of the victim/martyr role and get on with "being ourselves."

On the **Wednesday** morning, quoting Jesus in Matthew 9, Karen compared the church and the WMS to old wineskins. Just as the wine needs new wineskins to breathe, our minds and brains have to be elastic enough to absorb new concepts.



Top: The Glad Tidings cast cutting the cake. Below: The Book Room Committee review.

Historically, the WMS has always been elastic enough to change, to encourage gifts of laity, to encourage leadership development and specialized ministry, and so on. The WMS has been a voice for mission, and recognized women in ministry even before they were persons under the law in Canada (1929). But, she emphasized, the world has changed dramatically. Women have changed, the issues have changed. The WMS needs to be elastic enough to be there for the world.

Karen challenged the women to "stand up, speak up and be counted" especially in church courts. The church is still incredibly patriarchal, she said, and warned delegates not to be silenced by being swallowed up in institutional structures. She has labelled the current situation of women in the denomination as the "recolonization of women", saying that while the denomination has recognized many women in ministry with gifts, the trend is to absorb women into the system and thus silence them. She challenged the WMS to hold onto the fact that

Top: Panel members ponder questions. L to r Catherine Anderson, Rodger Talbot, Barbara Woodruff, Pauline Brown and Lorna van Mossel. Below: l to r Timothy Njoya, Claudette, Francine and Fidel.

we are in the system but not of it.

Each table group was given a copy of "Threatened with Resurrection" and instructed to share examples of ideas they believed were simply attempts to put patches on old wineskins.

As a closing activity each person made paper dolls from pages of "Threatened with Resurrection" and these were then put up around the theme "Get the Word Around."

Estimates

Estimates for 1996 were approved in the amount of $1,125,900: to Mission Education $390,500; Mission - AEC and Freelance Workers (Area Resource Persons) $390,000; Administration $233,200; and Grants $162,000 which includes $150,000 to the Life and Mission Agency.

Resolutions

Two recommendations which were adopted as resolutions will be forwarded to General Assembly.

- Recommendation No. 1 – That the minutes of appreciation for Blake Carter, Anja Oostenbrink and Donna Wilkinson be adopted.
- Recommendation No. 2 – That the Life and Mission Agency be strongly encouraged to give priority to ministry with children and youth for staffing and programming.

Since experimentation is being encouraged in the Five Year Plan, the resolution from the Presbyterials of Saskatchewan asking that the Synodical be dissolved as of June 1, 1995 was accepted as a report. This will be reviewed within three years.

In light of the fact that three staff members will be retiring within the next two years, Tam Corbett, Marian LeFeuvre and Barbara Woodruff, the Personnel Committee recommended that

- two executive positions be created to replace the present configuration of three (two Executive and one support staff). This was carried.

Book Room

As part of its report, members of the Book Room Committee presented creative book reviews. Each wore a sandwich board with the title of the book they were reviewing on the front. At the conclusion of the reviews the committee turned around to reveal the words on the back of their boards: *Resourceful, Approachable, Co-operative, Organized, Dedicated, Visible, Helpful,* representing the kind of service the Book Room offers.

A highlight of their report was the announcement that the Book Room has moved to its new location in the entranceway on the ground level of the newly renovated 50 Wynford Drive.

Glad Tidings

After giving the Glad Tidings report, convenor Jean Dancey stressed that in 1995 Glad Tidings is celebrating its 70th anniversary and that special events and sale items were planned for Council.

"Getting the Word Around"

A skit, prepared by Frances Nugent, entitled "Getting the Word Around" was presented on the Monday evening. Taking part were some members of Council Executive and staff: Helen Young, Gloria Kennedy, Ann Milne, June Stevenson and Katherine Allen.

Included in the skit was a Quiz Game in which the audience participated. Delegates had a lot of fun while learning much historical information about the magazine and its predecessors. A display, prepared by Helen Young and Jean Rankine was put up, including all editors, publications and information over the years.

Throughout the Council meeting, delegates were interrupted with questions about Glad Tidings and prizes were given of items prepared for the anniversary: bookmarks, buttons, posters and notes.

Minute for Mission

Unexpected guest, home from Kenya, **Catherine Chalin Clark** spoke on the Monday evening. Catherine has returned home to await word on whether the church in Kenya will reconsider its decision not to renew her work visa.

Korean Women

Greetings were brought from the Korean WMS by Vice President Ahn, Jung Hee, who also gave some background information on their organization. Kay Cowper then presented their President, Song, Bok Hee, with a life membership. Council later voted to add a member of the Korean WMS to Council Executive.

Focus on the Future

Margaret MacGillivray, chairperson of the "Focus on the Future" task group, reported on the progress of the Five-Year Plan. The worship resource, "Worship from the Heart", which was just off the press, was presented.

"The Word in the World,"

Program Secretary **Barbara Woodruff** chaired a panel on the **Tuesday** evening entitled, "The Word in the World," which spoke to how the church reaches out to people wherever they are.

Council delegate **Lorna van Mossel,** Council Executive member, former Citizenship Court judge, and active in refugee work in the Kitchener area, introduced three guests from her home congregation: **Claudette**, a Rwandan woman who came to Canada in September 1994, and her daughter **Francine** and son **Fidel**.

Two other sons, left behind have since been located and it is hoped will be able to come to Canada soon. Another was a victim of the conflict. Each member of the family spoke movingly of the war and their escape.

Rodger Talbot, recently returned from Mauritius, introduced Dr. **Timothy Njoya** from Kenya who is in Canada this year to receive the E. H. Johnson Award. Rodger, who spoke of Timothy as the "moral conscience" of Kenya, said he has paid a price for his prophetic stance with beatings and imprisonment. Njoya, who has seven churches in his charge, works for human rights in his country.

Catherine Anderson from Evangel Hall works with impoverished and abused women in downtown Toronto. "There is a need for flexible opportunities for women," she said, adding that often people who have the least are the ones who give the most.

Pauline Brown, missionary home on furlough from India, said that one way to help people is to assist them to organize themselves into groups for strength in approaching the government.

Njoya commented on the fact that the problems of India and Africa are not only poverty but governance and stewardship of money. Christianity has not permeated politics, he said. Christianity, like the hunter who kills the elephant for its tusk, has been poaching souls for heaven, not transforming the culture.

The panel continued to reflect on the church's role in society with a caution not to lose sight of the hope and joy of the Gospel. Delegates were encouraged by Lorna to continue to support refugees. Timothy challenged North American assumptions that we give because we can afford to. "If you can afford to give me something," he said, "I don't want it." The question should be, "can we afford not to do it?" "Do we give because we can afford it or because we love?", he asked, reminding the Council that "Christ gave his life."

Offering

The special offering taken during the Council meeting amounted to over $900 and went towards work at Tyndale-St. Georges, Montreal, Quebec.

Educational Focus 1995-96

The following were approved for educational foci in 1995-96:

Under *Canada Ministries* - new church development - Unionville; Ethnic Ministries - Portuguese; Korean Ministries - North West Vancouver; Native Ministries; Inner City - Tyndale-St. Georges. Under *International Ministries* - Nepal.

Retiring Council Executive

Retiring member Joyce Davis was thanked and presented with the gift of a Glad Tidings poster.

New Members/Executive

Esther Powell, Bernice Shih, Janette Mackie and Vera MacEwen were welcomed to Council Executive. Kay Cowper spoke briefly on her three-year term. She was presented with a framed copy of the Glad Tidings poster by in-coming president Rosemary Doran.

Closing Worship

The moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, George Vais, assisted Karen Timbers in the closing worship. In his meditation, George commended the WMS on "your desire and plans to be around in years to come." He said we cannot live in the past and that our future as a denomination will not necessarily be a repetition of the past.

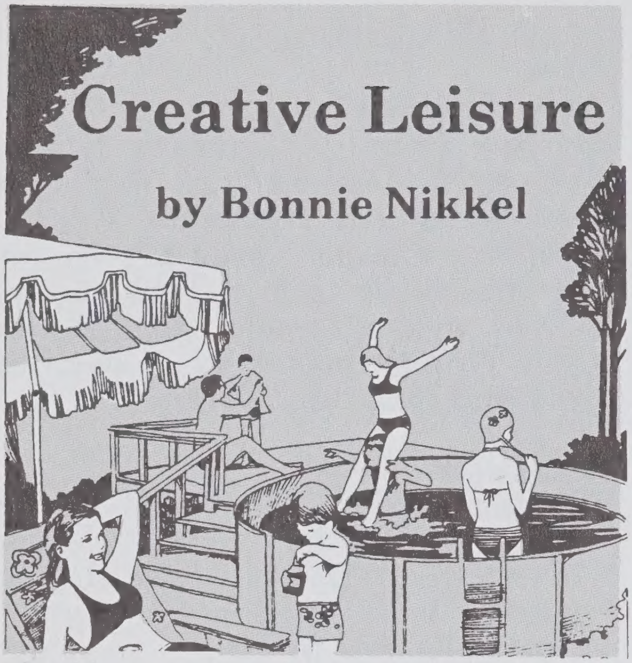
George reflected on the question, "when will this be over?", in particular how we can prevent our services of worship from degenerating and becoming dull and meaningless. He encouraged delegates to remember the real meaning behind the Communion symbols. Remember that Jesus loves you and ask yourself what you have sacrificed to make this world a better place.

The officers were installed by Dr. Vais and the Council meeting concluded with this benediction:

We leave this place
Celebrating the past but letting go for the future
Recognizing that we are not alone for our neighbour is just a sister away
Taking our place as the once and future Women's Missionary Society.
We will stand up!
speak up!
be counted!
We will get the Word around.

Creative Leisure

by Bonnie Nikkel



Ah, summertime – and the livin' is easy. Well, isn't it? That's what the song says. Unfortunately, ours is a busy generation, busy and tired. Sometimes, the summer is no exception. We register for tennis classes and agree to work overtime so we can pay for our upcoming vacation. We enrol our children in summer sports and swimming lessons. Our extra leisure time goes out the window. What can we do so this summer is different?

I believe much of our fatigue comes from living out of touch with God. We need contact with our Maker because God alone can make sense of our lives. We need power to live life, the power that only God can give us. God wants to release His prevailing power in us, but often cannot do so, because we are out of touch with God. The result is the familiar feeling of being overrun, beaten down, stressed out. What do you think is your greatest need this summer? Some may say, "I need a vacation!" Others may say that they need more time, or money, or energy, a bigger house, a better job, a happier marriage. But, the truth is, our deepest need is to know God better.

Knowing God involves more than accumulating facts about God. To know God is to understand God and God's ways, and experience God in daily worship, dependence and obedience. It is finding God adequate for every need. This can only be accomplished as we communicate with God.

This summer, let's do things differently. Let's give some thought to how we can use our leisure time to renew that all-important relationship. Let me suggest ten practical ideas:

1. With the longer summer events, we often get more reading done. Look for some of the classics on God or on prayer in your book store. Turn the TV off and spend your evenings, whenever possible, on the patio, or your apartment balcony, with a book. Or choose a biography of another Christian whose life challenges your own. One year, as we travelled, I read aloud to my family the biography of Gladys Aylward. We were all truly inspired by the story of that woman's faith and perseverance.

2. Buy a new notebook to use as a summer prayer book. Record some requests that apply especially to your summer plans, people you'll be visiting, projects you want to tackle. Include the ministry of your church. And don't forget to leave room for answers; you'll get some. Copy some Bible verses on to the top of each page to remind yourself whom you are addressing. For instance, Nahum 1:7, "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him." Keep this notebook with you, and pray through it while you wait for the kids at their swimming lessons or soccer games.

If you're single, your timetable will be different, but still with its own pressure points and temptations. The notebook can be a good tool for keeping your prayer list organized.

3. Set yourself a goal to read through a certain book of the Bible over the summer months. Try reading a different translation, such as *Phillips*, or the *Living Bible*. I was encouraged recently by reading I Peter in the *Amplified Version*. I usually use the *New International Version* for my devotions, so reading those verses from a different translation brought out new meaning.

4. Buy some pencil crayons or hilighters and begin to trace certain themes as you read the Bible. Use red for redemption, green for new life in Christ, purple for repentance, etc.

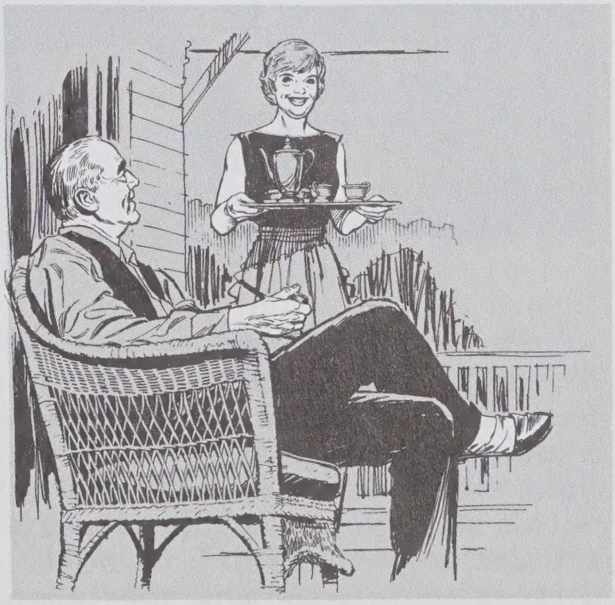
5. Start to keep a daily journal in your quiet times. Record the key verse from your reading that day, along with your thoughts. Ask yourself, "What does this passage say about God the Father? about Jesus? about the Holy Spirit? about myself?" Try to share your discoveries with someone else once or twice a week.

6. Make talking to God part of your daily routine. Pray for your children while you watch them at swimming lessons and at baseball games. Pray for your neighbors as you drive in and out of your neighborhood. Pray for your husband when he's cutting the lawn. Pray for your out-of-town friends and family when you get their postcards. Pray for co-workers who are away on vacation when you pass their empty desks.

7. Choose an aspect of God that you have always wondered about, such as "justice," and, using a concordance, answer the question, "What does the Bible say about justice?" Summarize your findings into a mini-message and preach it to your family – a captive audience – while you're driving to the cottage! Choose one verse on that subject and memorize it.

8. If you spend your vacation out in nature, such as at a cottage or camping, you'll have added incentive to meditate on the workings of God in your life – and your surroundings. If you're a busy mom, try slipping away in the evening, after the children are tucked in, to walk and have extended time to pray. Pray over your children by name, pray for your non-Christian friends and family members, bring other aspects of your life and ministry to God. Include your spouse in your walk, if your children are old enough to stay alone.

A long walk in the woods or along the beach, talking over all your circumstances with God, will bring fresh perspective to decisions you are facing.



9. Cultivate a new non-Christian friend. Summertime is perfect for background barbecues, weekend brunches. Think of a co-worker, or a neighbor who responds well to your friendship. Use your summer entertaining to develop that relationship. Pray regularly for that friend to come to know the Lord. Be on the alert for opportunities to tell your friend about the "hope that is in you." For several years we have helped host a street barbecue with our neighbors. People bring their own meat and drinks, along with a salad or dessert to share. Neighbors linger long into the evening, enjoying the chance to visit unhurriedly. We have strengthened our relationships in this way and have made inroads into their lives, for Jesus' sake.

10. Take a "musical fast." For a week, listen to only Christian music. Get some tapes from friends or your church library, perhaps artists or great works of the masters you don't know well. Let this music lead you into worship while you're busy with mundane summer tasks, like canning and gardening. Take music tapes along with you when you travel in the car on vacation.

Summertime sometimes brings stress, especially if you have kids home from school, out-of-town visitors, vacations to plan and pay for. But don't let this one go by without finding some time for yourself, to renew that most important relationship – your relationship with God.

– Bonnie Nikkel and her husband, Sam, have been on staff with The Navigators of Canada since 1977. They currently direct the Navigator ministries on the Prairies. Bonnie lives in Edmonton with her husband and three children.

Where All the Memories Played*

by Bob Hostetler

The room was dark, with a medicinal, musty smell that was common, in my mind, to nursing homes and funeral parlors. What little light there was in the room entered with a struggle, descending through overcast skies, filtering through a dirty window and past the large, loud flowered pattern of the curtains.

On the windowsill stood a potted plant, nearly dead, and a gaily colored Christmas card bearing the single name, "Dave," scrawled beneath the verse on the inside.

I had been in this nursing home

before, but couldn't recall having visited the whiskered, loose-skinned old man who sat staring vacantly out the window at the grey, February sky.

He was dressed and sitting in a high-backed vinyl chair, which was a relief to me. So many of the men and women I visited were confined to their beds, making my discomfort more pronounced.

I pulled a chair out of the corner by the window and sat down several feet away from the man.

Clearing my throat and fingering the items I held in my hand, I explained that I was visiting with a church group, told him my name and asked for his name.

His eyes shifted slightly in my direction, but as the moments passed, I wondered if perhaps I had spoken too softly. I said, louder this time, "I brought some things for you, just a couple of small gifts that I hope you might enjoy."

He appeared unaware that I had spoken, that my voice had, for a moment, interrupted the faint, ceaseless clicking of the heater behind his chair. I began searching the room for clues to topics that might prompt conversation. There was often a photograph, or a personal memento, but in this man's room, nothing except for the dying plant and the Christmas card.

I licked my lips, ready to make one more effort at conversation, when he spoke.

"I'm ninety-one, you know."

I thought that, with those words, he would turn his face and eyes toward me, but he continued gazing out the window. I waited a moment for him to do so, or to say something further. When he didn't, I ventured, "That means you were born around...1891. Is that right?"

He didn't respond. His eyes still had that faraway look.

Still hopeful because of his earlier response, I broke the silence again. "Do you remember much about your childhood, what it was like at the turn of the century?"

He seemed about to speak, then took a quick breath and held it a moment before letting it out slowly. Finally, he said, "I remember the icebox under the kitchen window...and during the summer the iceman'd always give me and my brothers ice chips to suck on...." He worked his tongue over his dry lips. "And the lamplighter. I remember the lamplighter comin' round every evenin' lightin' the street lamps. That's how me and Wayne knew it was time to be getting home."

And so he continued, almost uninterrupted, recalling his childhood days. I found myself completely engrossed in this man's memories of almost a hundred years. He spoke of school days, of his Grandpa's farm, of his first ride in an automobile, of making ice cream on the back porch, all the while looking at the sky as if it were a screen where all his memories played. Not once did he look at me, or acknowledge me other than to respond to my infrequent word or question.

After some time, I shifted forward in my seat, preparing to leave. I asked if I could pray aloud for him. He again did not respond, so I prayed briefly and rose to leave. I set the gifts in my hand next to the plant on the windowsill. As I began to step toward the door, I heard him say, "Son?"

Turning around to face him, I saw that he was no longer staring out the window, but had turned to look at me. With a wrinkled brow and eyes squinting to see through the dimness of the room, he said, "Are you my son?"

"No sir," I said. I explained that I was there with a church group.

"Oh," he said, turning again toward the window. "I thought you were my son."

I watched him for a moment then stepped quietly out of the room.

I returned regularly to that nursing home over the next several months. Each time, he would reminisce about more youthful days, more active days; I would listen. His eyes seemed to grow less clouded, his mind seemed to sharpen with use.

I prayed with him during every visit, and as the weeks and months passed, I grew confident that an early faith in God had been revived.

I have since moved away from that town and that special acquaintance, and the man's name has been lost to me; but I like to think that those Sunday afternoon visits added something to his life. They added much to mine.

*based on an actual experience of the author

- Bob Hostetler is co-author (with Josh McDowell) of *Don't Check Your Brains at the Door*, a 1992 release from Word Books.

If God can make a
tiny seed
Into a flower so fair,
What can he make,
O soul, of you
Through study, faith,
and prayer? - Anon.

- The Orbiter, Women of the Church, Newsletter of the Presbyterial of Central Alberta, April 1995

"Getting Carried Away"

by Gordon R. Lean

It happens. At times we all go farther on a project than we originally intended.

For instance, when my accountant informed me that [former] Prime Minister Brian Mulroney would be sending me a refund on all the income tax money they took from me last year, we decided to purchase an outdoor patio set, umbrella and all. Just to keep the economy rolling, you understand. However, on realizing that my back lawn sloped considerably down from the house, I said to my wife, "I'll have to build a deck."

At first I'd planned to do something about twelve feet by twelve, but the square look didn't do anything for me, so I decided to go to twelve by fourteen. At the lumber yard they informed me that I'd be losing two feet on every board because the planks came in sixteen foot lengths. So I decided to go twelve by sixteen, and I justified my decision with the tongue-in-cheek remark, "Life is short and eternity is long."

Well, after I'd treated all the boards, levelled and framed them together, I ended up with a sizeable expanse, level with the living room floor. I was justly proud of my "creation". My spouse took one look at the finished product and breathed, "That's not a deck...it's a battleship!" "Don't worry", I replied, "With all Brian's saving by cutting down on armaments and war paraphernalia he should be able to cover this."

LUMBER SALE
2x10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NRSV)

Breakfast on the deck was definitely on my list of future activities.

It's hard to be balanced in everything. Some parents give to their children to the extent that they become spoiled. Others are so heavy in their discipline they provoke their children to anger. Some abdicate the intelligent control of their lives, and are governed by habits that will some day ruin them. Ask the man who has lost all to some habit and he will tell you the area of his excess. To some, money is merely useful. To others, it becomes a god that pierces them through with many sorrows.

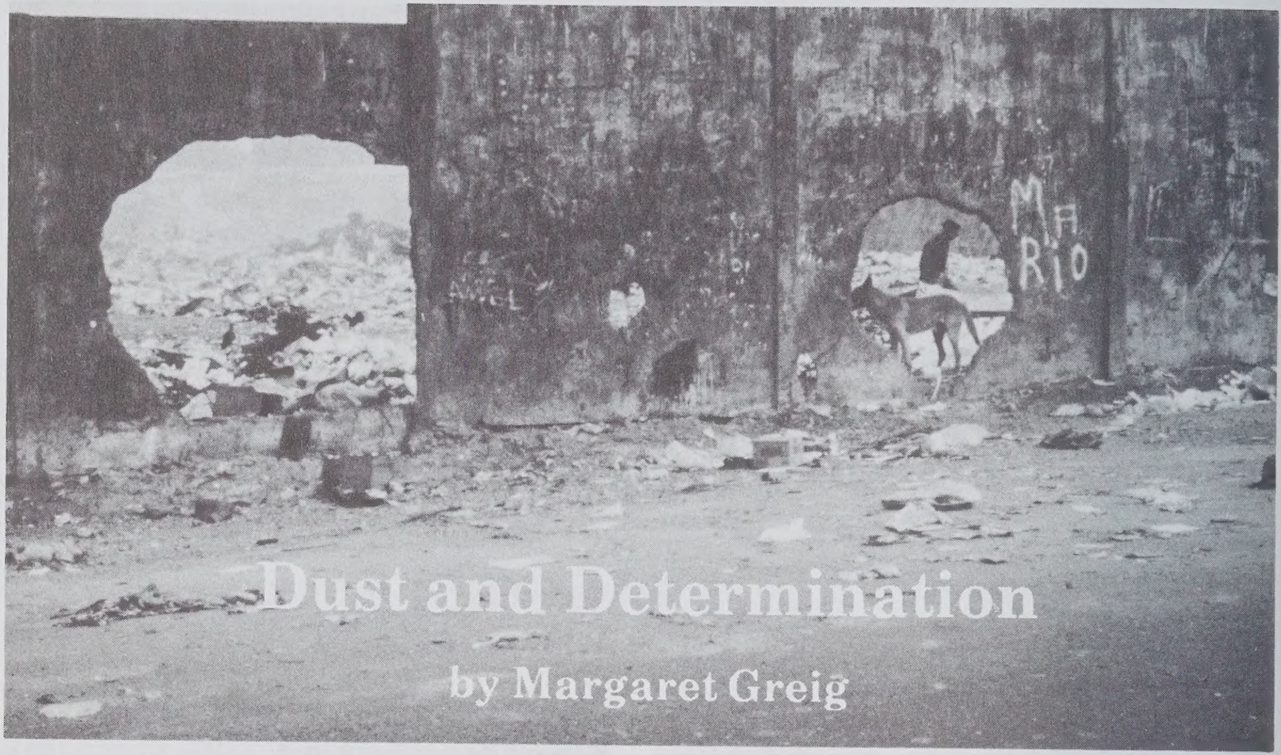
So I went overboard a bit with my deck. Who doesn't get carried away at times? My wife should be glad I didn't attempt a landing dock. It probably would have spanned two continents!

When I think of someone getting "carried away" my musings invariably turn to God, in spite of the fact that what He did for us was planned before the world was. His love for us all was so great he gave us the greatest treasure he had - His only Son. Through that wonderful Son He provides forgiveness and cleansing from sin. He grants abundant and eternal life for those who trust in Him. Now, that's going overboard, isn't it, especially in light of the fact that if we got our "just desserts" we'd all be consumed!

Such expanse of mercy, such breaking down of the barriers to be good to us never spoils the true child of God. Instead, it brings to the lips a song of praise: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within in me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, do not forget all his benefits." (Ps. 103:1-2) So, get carried away in thanking Him. You'll never catch up on His mercy, no matter how hard you try!

...where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...

Romans 5:20b (NRSV)



Dust and Determination

by Margaret Greig

I don't know when I've felt so dusty for two weeks straight. It was the dry season in Central America when our five member delegation from Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church in London visited Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala (January 22-February 5).

But our thoughts were constantly turned towards the work that is happening through NGO's (Non-governmental organizations), of which our church is often in partnership.

What does it mean to be partners in mission?

It means that children living in the dump in Guatemala City have a school, built by the municipality, run by the Sisters of Annunciation, and use desks provided by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

It means that four classrooms of children were excited to see us arrive on January 31, 1995. They like school. They like their teachers and they now have the opportunity to receive at least a Grade Six education.

Their environment stinks. There was a steady shower of acrid ashes on the day that we visited them. We felt like interlopers but they were excited to have visitors. Our lasting memory will be their welcome songs and smiling faces.

The hope for the children and the only ticket to moving out is education and we are helping as we work together in this partnership.

Our images from this trip are many: children curious about who we are, people from another country with fair skin, light colored hair and eyes...one woman telling us her story of living in a poor neighbourhood, with a violent husband and trying to raise seven children, music from the Batahola barrio (neighbourhood) – professional, beautiful and from the heart, prayer in poor neighborhoods where people ask for help for earthquake victims in Japan, as well as for their own government decisions and hope for seemingly hopeless situations.

The surprise for me was how our presence gave them hope.

The surprise for me was how our presence gave them hope. They were aware that there were financial and emotional costs for us to be with them. We were there to see inside their homes and their hearts. Their only request was for our prayers. I had not expected to feel such a strong sense of solidarity with them and they with us. World Wide Communion Sunday has a whole new meaning in this context. Prayer for the people in Central America brings images of happy faces and hopeful faces, as well as ones of malnutrition and advanced aging.

The highlight of the trip was the incredible strength and determination of the people working to make life better by organizing feeding programs for children in their own barrios, and by pastoring communities and working for justice issues while living in poverty.

It is this inherent will to survive that makes a difference. We are partners in mission when we support the communities that are taking initiative. We weaken them with sporadic hand-outs. We strengthen them when we support their ability to empower themselves, perhaps with chickens that provide meat and eggs for consumption and for income.

Central America and other Third World countries have an enormous informal sector: people selling what they can, on the streets and sidewalks. They have initiative and determination.

We can help them through our continued support of all the mission work of the church.

Everywhere we went we were thanked for the contributions that had come from the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It was a humbling experience as we represented the whole church as partners.

- Children and teacher in the school in the dump, Guatemala City.

- Community of Las Cayax where school is located.

Each year, Canadian Presbyterians like Margaret Greig travel to Africa, Asia, or Central America to learn more about developing countries. Many of these people are able to take part in these educational trips with the help of an exposure grant from our Church's development and relief agency, Presbyterian World Service & Development. PWS&D provides these grants to assist Presbyterians to gain exposure to the developing world and to encourage them to share their experiences with members of their church and community. Often times, part of the trip includes visiting mission or development partners and learning more about the ways that Canadian Presbyterians are supporting local initiatives in developing countries. Guidelines for exposure tour grants are available from the PWS&D office at 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ontario M3C 1J7, tel: (416) 441-1111, fax: (416) 441-2825.

NEW PRICE - WMS MEMBERSHIP PINS

Gold Filled Life Membership Pin - $50.00*
Gold Filled Honorary Pin - $76.50
Certificate of Recognition Pin/ Charm - $26.75

Order from:

Life Membership Department
Women's Missionary Society
50 Wynford Drive
North York, Ontario M3C 1J7

Above prices include postage/handling and the GST. Make cheque or money order payable to the Women's Missionary Society.

***Increased price effective July 1, 1995**

The Women's Missionary Society (WD) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada seeks applications for two positions:

1. **Executive Secretary**
Duties to commence January 1, 1996
2. **Program Secretary**
Duties to commence July 1, 1996

Candidates will have:
(1) Experience and training in Christian Education particularly with adults.
(2) Preferably a certificate or diploma from a recognized theological institution.
(3) Well developed computer skills

For further details and job descriptions contact before October 20, 1995:

Catherine Bray,
WMS (WD)
50 Wynford Drive,
North York, Ontario M3C 1J7

What God Would Say

I was here in the beginning
I'll be there at the end;
I'm your lifelong companion,
Your true and trusted friend.

I blew the gift of life in you;
I notice when you weep.
I'm always there to hold your hand,
And guard you when you sleep.

The height and depth of my love,
Is more than you will know.
It's larger than the sky above.
Trust me, child, and I'll show.

When it seems to you impossible,
To carry on each day.
Remember that you have a God
Who sends his love your way.

John J. Harrison

- John J. Harrison is the author of It's a New Day for Consumers and Collection Techniques for a Small Business and a syndicated columnist based in Toledo, Ohio.

CELEBRATING YOUTH :and Children!

The Smithville and Beamsville, Ontario Presbyterian Church has a youth group which meets weekly for bible study, fun nights, socialization, and discussion, with the goal of Christian spiritual growth, fellowship, and service to God.

The group has been called upon several times to perform at WMS functions, and these evenings have been a wonderful success. The most recent event was a pot luck on February 26, 1995, followed by a program on joy. While one of the youth leaders led those present in scripture reading, hymns, and prayer pertaining to the theme, the youth group set up for an evening of skits. It proved to be a joyous event. "The most fun we've had in years here," said one WMS member.

The youth are the church of the future, but they are also the church of the present and have a great deal to contribute. Our youth group is always happy to help with WMS events when approached to do so.

Bev Eybil-Misch, youth group
leader, and WMS vice-president,
Smithville Presbyterian Church.

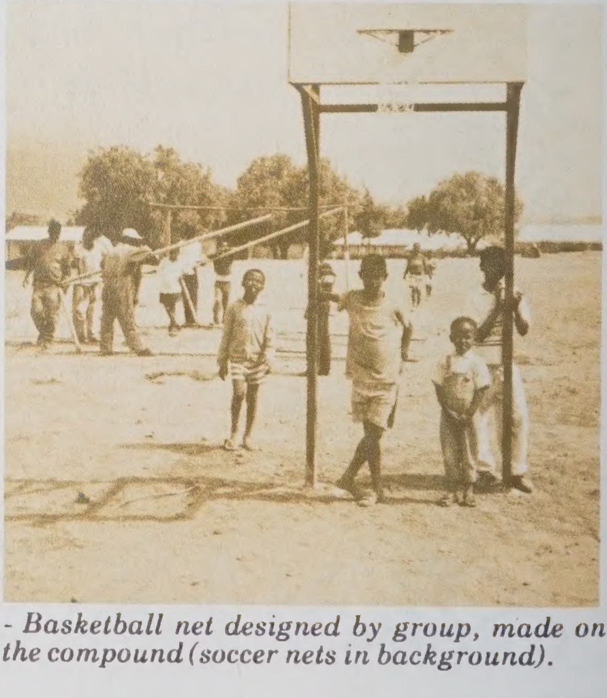
Thank You, WMS

We are writing concerning our Christian mission which took place from February 24 to March 17, 1995. Six members of Grace Presbyterian Church in Orleans, Ontario travelled to Kuriftu, Ethiopia on a walk of faith. A grant of $1600 which was received from the Isabella Brown Memorial Fund, helped to make this trip possible. The grant was shared among the four young adult-students. We are grateful for your part in making this trip possible.

Our team consisted of Dan Maxson, who works for Relief Development Services International; Linda Paquette, a certified student for ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada; Katrina Paquette and Kristen Hendricks, who are in their last year at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School, and Stephen Hall and Halie Ruck, who are currently studying Recreation Management at Algonquin College.

Our destination was a Children's Centre run by the Kale Heywet Church in Kuriftu, Ethiopia. Eighty-one children are living on the compound, either full-time or part-time. There is also a medical clinic and an agricultural centre.

Our objectives and goals while we were there were to build a soccer field and nets, a basketball court,



- Basketball net designed by group, made on the compound (soccer nets in background).

- Digging holes for basketball net with a shovel and a pickaxe.

and a volleyball court with nets, as well as to teach them to play the game of basketball. We were also given the tasks of building a set of stairs, helping the children with their school work and participating in devotions each night.

This was a wonderful experience for all of us and we really enjoyed working with the kids. It gave us so much joy in our hearts to see how they cared about each other. This in turn created a warmth and strong relationship between the members of our team and between us and the children.

We did not know what to expect when we got there, but, as we soon found out, the people were very accepting of us. Just to be playing with them and to see them smile made us happy. And if all you could give them was a smile, that's all they needed and their faces lit up.

It is hard to describe what each one of us experienced while in Ethiopia, but what we can say is that we left Ethiopia with a much stronger faith in God. These children taught us that it's not what you have in materials, it's what you believe in your heart that really makes the difference in life. It takes both work and prayer to live life, and prayer is the greatest asset. We found it truly wonderful to see how God works in the lives of others, both young and old.

We would really like to thank the Women's Missionary Society for your support. The grants helped to make possible our walk in faith, something that we shall carry in our hearts forever. Thank you!

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION 1994

Sarah Aitken,
John Eddolls,
Tom Robertson,
Acton, Ontario

Rachel Gofton,
Robin Gofton,
Amy White,
Aldershot, Ontario

Barbara MacLeod,
Hamilton, Ontario

Kathy McCosham,
Martintown, Ontario

Krista Petty,
Rockwood, Ontario

Daniel Thibeault,
Alysia Simpson,
Sarnia, Ontario

Jessica McBride,
Kristy McBride,
Thornhill, Ontario

Doris Bryant,
Windsor, Ontario

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS 1994

B

Bennett, Helen
Port Hope, Ontario

Boron, Audrey
Kincardine, Ontario

Boyce, Joan
Lambeth, Ontario

Broadbent, Barbara
Brockville, Ontario

C

Cleland, Elizabeth
Listowel, Ontario

D

Davidson, Erma
Vankleek Hill, Ontario

G

Gairdner, Eleanor
West Flamboro, Ontario

H

Henderson, Lorna
Etobicoke, Ontario

Huggins, Edna
Port Colborne, Ontario

Hussack, Bernadine
Caledonia, Ontario

J

Johnson, Madeline
Caledonia, Ontario

K

Kirk, Edna
Aldershot, Ontario

Krompart, Mary
West Flamboro, Ontario

L

Livingstone, Alice
Niagara-on-the-Lake,
Ontario

Mac

MacEachern, Ruth
Woodville, Ontario

MacInnes, Esther
London, Ontario

MacKey, Edith
MacKey, Mary
Hanover, Ontario

MacNeil, Hannah
Moose Creek, Ontario

Mc

McConachie, Margaret
Caledonia, Ontario

McKillop, Jean
Dutton, Ontario

McPherson, Babs
Victoria, B.C.

M

Middleton, Marjorie
Medicine Hat, Alberta

Moncrieff, Wilf
Sault Ste. Marie,
Ontario

O

Oostenbrink, Anja
Red Deer, Alberta

P

Parker, Helen
Caledonia, Ontario

Patterson, Isobel
Sebringville, Ontario

Perry, Hazel
Forest, Ontario

Poehlman, June
Port Colborne, Ontario

R

Robinson, Ruth
Atwood, Ontario

Ryan, Kathleen
Greenfield Park,
Quebec

S

St. Louis, Nan
Cannington, Ontario

Szabo, Ruth
Port Colborne, Ontario

W

Wallace, Eleanor
St. Thomas, Ontario

Wood, Leah
Victoria, B.C.

Reminder:

We need a new logo for the "Celebrating Youth and Children" page, something that reflects children and youth today. Send your suggestions camera-ready, if possible, to Glad Tidings as soon as possible.

Sharing-Learning/Offering Project 1995-96

"Hope for Street Kids - An Exploration of Street Children and Youth in Canada, and Across the World"

Hope is a scarce commodity for children and youth living on the streets of many cities across the world. Many of these children and youth are running from situations of conflict and/or abuse of many kinds. Into this world come agents of mercy and hope – kids helping kids, adults helping kids.

Through our study the children and youth of the church will explore the world of the street child/youth. Through looking at self-esteem/worth, and creative ways of handling conflict/differences of opinion, children and youth will be helped to see the importance of these issues in the life of the street child/youth, and, in their own lives.

Features: affirming ourselves, and others, U.N. Rights of the Child; Conflict – what it is/working it out; Hope through: Evangel Hall, Anishinabe, Streetkids International, Institute of Human Promotion, Managua, Nicaragua; Living Rock Celebrate love, hope and the resiliency of children.

Activities Planned: videos, songs, recipes, crafts, participate in a breakfast program, essay writing/picture contest, depicting ways we in Canada care for our children and youth.

The Learning/Sharing Project is available in the Children's Packet "United for a Better World" C0409 – $12.00

Available separately for $5.00 plus tax, shipping and handling from: The WMS Book Room.

Other Friendship Press 1995-96 Mission Study Resources

YOU ARE MY WITNESSES: THE WALDENSIANS ACROSS 800 YEARS *by Giorgio Tourn and Associates.*
Four Waldensian scholars present the broad sweep of the medieval Waldensian challenge, expansion across Europe, persecutions, and discipleship today. With maps, prints, a bibliography, tables on Waldensian-Methodist administration and specialized ministries, this is the most comprehensive volume in any language addressing the historic and contemporary dimensions of the earliest continuing Protestant experience. Includes 40 pages of photographs. **G3881 $25.00**

THE SPRING OF NATIONS: CHURCHES IN THE REBIRTH OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE *by J. Martin Bailey.*
"It is important to read this book and be reminded of the beginnings of the movement for freedom and the significant role played by many Christians, both clergy and lay. Martin Bailey is a perceptive writer and observer of this recent period of history." - Robert C. Lodwick, Former Area Associate for Europe, Presbyterian Church (USA). **G4320 $14.75**

AVAILABLE FROM WMS Book Room (See page 36 for ordering information).

Activities for Map 'n' Facts: Europe . . . An E

Ways to Use the Map 'n' Facts in your local group, presbyterial or synodical

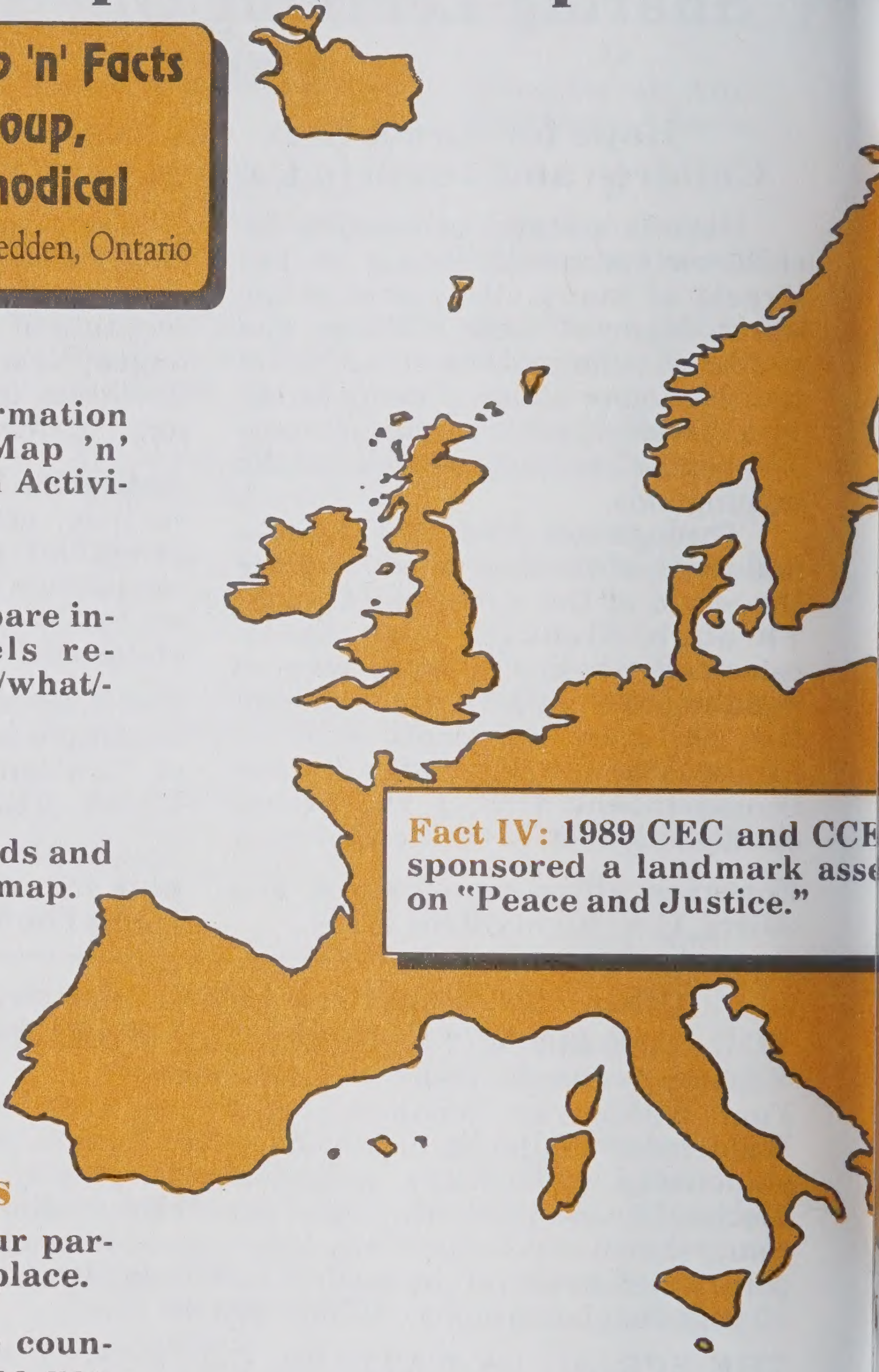
Prepared by Marion Orchard, Shedden, Ontario

Preparation

1. Make copies of information panels on back of Map 'n' Facts as referred to in Activities A, B and C.

OR

1. Ask two people to prepare interviews from panels referred to in A & C: Who/what/-when/where/why?
2. Display Map 'n' Facts.
3. Print Facts I-IV on cards and fasten on or beside the map.

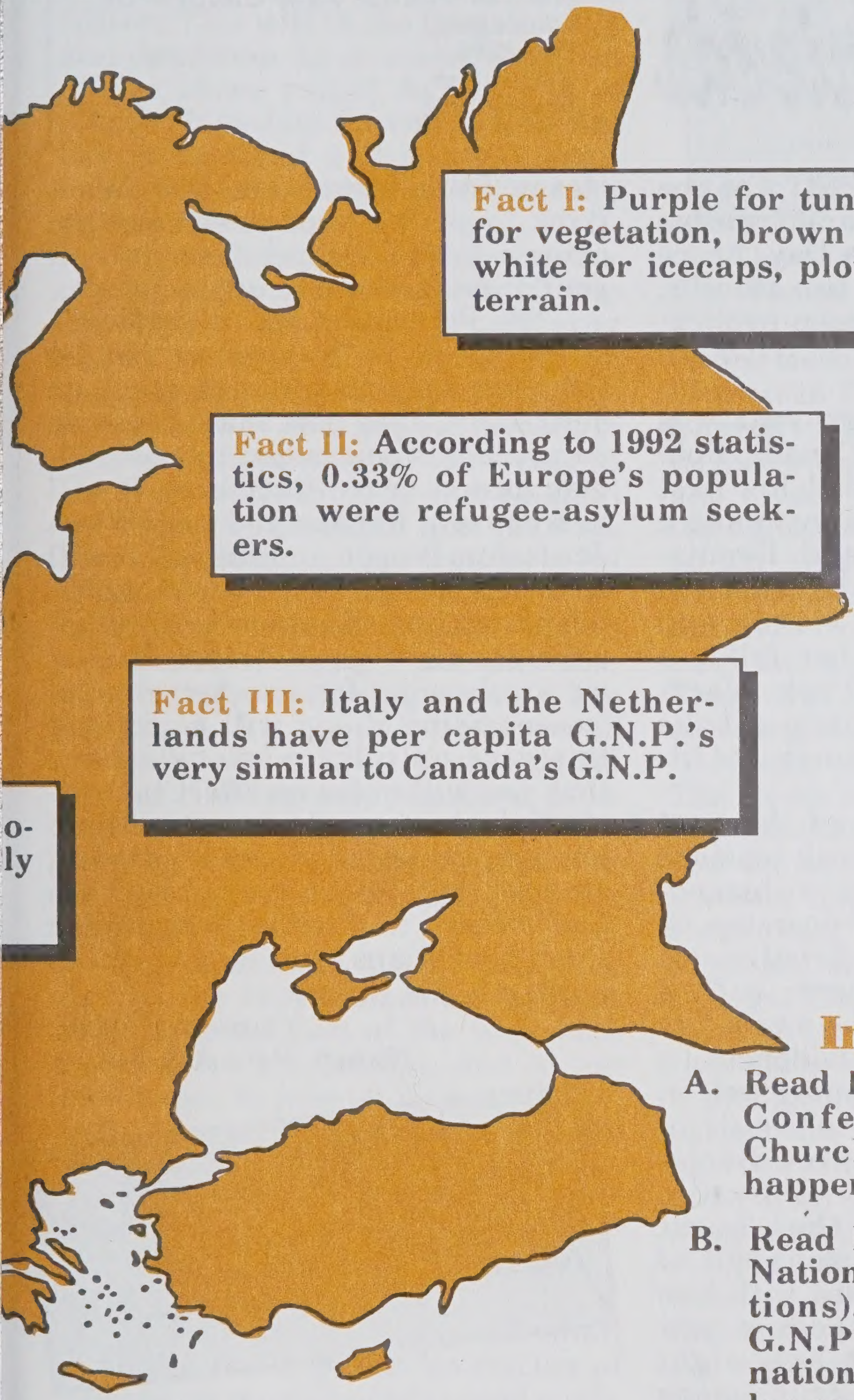


Fact IV: 1989 CEC and CC sponsored a landmark asse on "Peace and Justice."

Large Map Activities

1. Locate on the map your particular ancestral birth place.
2. Locate on the map the country of birth of someone you know who emigrated from Europe to Canada in the 1960s to the 1990s.
3. Locate on the map Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia where there is such conflict at the present time.
4. Read Fact 1 and then locate the three tundra areas in Europe.

ellent Resource for 1995-96 Mission Study



Fact I: Purple for tundra, green for vegetation, brown for desert, white for icecaps, plot Europe's terrain.

Fact II: According to 1992 statistics, 0.33% of Europe's population were refugee-asylum seekers.

Fact III: Italy and the Netherlands have per capita G.N.P.'s very similar to Canada's G.N.P.

o-
ly

Activities with Information Panels

A. Read Fact 2 and Panel "The Conference of European Churches". Why is this fact happening?

B. Read Fact 3 and Panel "The Nations of Europe" (two sections). What is per capita G.N.P? List four European nations with somewhat similar per capita G.N.P. to Canada.

C. Read Fact 4 and Panel "Ecumenical Relationships in Europe". What are CEC and CCEE? Why is the CEC important?

Dear Friends

The Assalys,
c/o The Middle East Council of Churches,
Box 1248,
Jerusalem
March 1995

The highlight [of 1994] was the birth of another child! Janan Andrea arrived on St. Andrew's Day, hence the second name. Now two months, our fifth and last has been particularly well received by her sister, as well as the boys.

Most memorable last year was our four month visit to Canada. Robert's deputation included his first visit to Atlantic Canada including a weekend in Newfoundland. Deputation included a visit to the church in Bermuda! Meanwhile Nancy and the tribe stayed with her folks, a farm near Algonquin Park. Vacation included a camping trip at Lake Superior with Munir, Samah and little Siham.

The children enjoyed the past year for the most part, with tensions eased up somewhat, not withstanding the killings on our doorstep by an Israeli death squad. Kristi seems to be quite at home here, with a clique of girlfriends. She again finished top in her class, evidencing a grasp of Arabic, while doing well in her parallel home-schooling programme. We discovered Benjamin to be sullen only by contrast to the ear-to-ear smile that burst across his face on the plane out of here, and which remained with him all summer. Justin attends a new and unique school with only eight other children and counts it among his loves.

One of the most interesting aspects of Robert's role here is ministering to the small congregation in Gaza. They have rarely been permitted to leave the Gaza Strip and it is difficult or not permitted for the clergy from Israel and the West Bank to go. We hope to re-open the church later this year, for which your prayers would be appreciated.

The Patriarchs and other Heads of churches in November issued their most significant statement on Jerusalem. They note that so long as Jerusalem is dominated by one religion, people or political force, it will be a cause of tension and war. When Jerusalem is open and shared, it will be a sign of hope to the world. Looking ahead, the situation for the Palestinians remains uncertain. Hence, we are bracing for another year of 'peace'. Some of you will be coming this year on pilgrimage. We hope that you will make an effort to travel off the beaten pilgrimage path, to encounter some of the "living stones", the Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ here. With these Christians, you may walk an authentic Via Dolorosa.

Yours in Christ,
Nancy, Robert & family

The Crosbys,
47 Hitchcock Avenue,
Rose Hill,
Mauritius (Indian Ocean)
Epiphany, 1995

All three of us leave Mauritius on 27 February: Liz to fly to Scotland to spend two weeks with her family, and Jonathan and I to fly to Vancouver to spend some time with my mother before driving to Winnipeg. All three of us then fly to

Toronto in mid-March for meetings at church offices and some time with Alison. This will be the first time Liz and Jonathan have seen Alison in almost three years! At the end of March, Jonathan flies off to Iona Abbey in Scotland and to start engineering studies at one of the Scottish universities.

Liz and I shall also leave Toronto at the end of March, fly to Winnipeg and then start driving slowly west, visiting Presbyterian congregations and many old friends along the way. During the months of May and June we shall be living at the University of B.C. where I shall try valiantly to study and improve my knowledge – particularly of Church history, as we shall be launching a course in that field in our still-flourishing Mauritian theological education programme when I get back. Liz hopes to observe and perhaps help out in the theological library. During July, we hope to be able to visit congregations, particularly on Vancouver Island, where we did not manage to visit during our last furlough.

In August, we shall be on holiday in the U.K. Jonathan is planning to spend part of the time with us when his job finishes, and Alison also hopes to join us. She should by then have completed and submitted her thesis for her master's degree at York University in Toronto. Her field is refugee studies and her particular interest is in the resettlement of women refugees.

In September, Liz and I shall visit the francophone countries of Europe, in pursuit of advanced study opportunities for some of our staff people and to look for educational materials, before returning to Mauritius on the 18th.

God grant you courage and peace as you journey on into 1995.

Brian Crosby

Margaret and Jake Vanderzweerde,
7414 Westfield Drive,
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 3V8
January 1995

The "Presbyterial" meeting of the Women of the Churches in the Vindhya-Satpura area, the original "Bhil field" of the Presbyterian Church in Canada was held in Zion Church in Jobat with Agnes Hislop, former missionary, as guest speaker and myself as guest, representing the PCC/WMS. (Agnes was in India as the informal guest of Pauline Brown.) The meeting wasn't much different from Presbyterials in Canada, but there was a difference. There was a period of "games and entertainment".

First, there was a Bible quiz. The leader mentioned a name, place, or incident from the book of Ruth and the women were asked to write answers that were appropriate. The three "best" answers were awarded a prize, which I was asked to present. Then they sang, in turn. Almost all the women participated, either alone or in duet or small group. I thought this was great. [I wondered] how many women would get up at a Presbyterial and sing? solo or otherwise? and without musical accompaniment?

Then there was a wonderful moment of tribute to the late Mary Sherrick, so much loved by the women. It was she who had taught them to "arm themselves" with the Word of God, and had encouraged them to memorize Scripture. As a tribute to Mary it was suggested several women recite a selected portion of the Bible. About seven of the women that participated actually "made it" all the way through Psalm 1.

Pray for the women and the work they are involved in at the church. Shalom!

In His love & Service,
Margaret

Amkhut Remembers

A memorial service was held in Amkhut, India on December 18, 1994 for Mary Sherrick who died in November 1994. The congregation gave thanks to God for Mary's life of service with them, from 1933-1975.

On January 8, 1995 many people gathered in the sitting room of the old WMS bungalow in Amkhut to reminisce and share with Margaret Vanderzweerde their memories.

Born on a farm in Canada, Mary is remembered, among other things, for teaching the boys and girls how to cultivate "kitchen gardens" for their own use.

She was also remembered for her resourcefulness, learning to maintain, service and repair the two vehicles sent by the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1952, as well as for teaching Kanya Rama, the "driver" to drive.

After the meeting in the bungalow, those present stood, as they had at Mary's departure from Amkhut twenty years ago, on the roof of the garage (see photo) remembering Mary's departing words, "Each time you pray, and each time I pray, we will meet at the throne of grace."

David and Miriam Barrie,
R. R. #2,
Cambridge, ON N1R 5S3
February 1995

Well, today is the day after the new President of Malawi, Bakili Muluzi came to officially open the Naming'azi Farm School and Hostel. Unfortunately Miriam was sick and unable to go.... It was a great thrill to meet the President who is so down to earth and seems to be a man for the people. What a great day for Naming'azi Farm: they improved our road; he visited our school children; 1500 dignitaries and local villagers came; he spoke live on the MBC in English, and he was so impressed that he left a cheque for MK120,000 ($12,000 Cdn.) which we will use to bring electricity to the farm.

This year we came to drill a borehole at the farm. Our needs for water are increasing steadily. Now there are 254 students attending the school and there will be youth coming for agriculture courses and we irrigate vegetables and rice. We, the church, also want to satisfy the needs of our neighbouring villages. We have paid a 30,000 Kwacha deposit on a reliable drill rig and are timing it so Peter Gray, a hydrogeologist and elder from our home congregation Central Church, Cambridge will be here to assist us with his expertise.

We are experiencing the rainiest of rainy seasons (normally November-March) so Malawi is green and it seems there could be a good harvest which is the best answer to food shortages.

The Malawi Kwacha is trading at 10 per Canadian dollar which is a terrible hardship for the ordinary Malawian as bread, sugar, milk and cooking oil have more than tripled in price. In spite of this, there is a mood of optimism for the new freedoms particularly freedom of speech after 30 years of oppression.

We could devote a full page to the trials and tribulations of our Toyota Pickup which died one day miles from nowhere and a man came out of a mud hut and to make a long story short was just the mechanic I needed. God works in mysterious ways.

We continue to enjoy our work and thank God for his constant presence with us. Thank you for your interest and support and prayers for our work at Naming'azi Farm.

In Christ,
David & Miriam

The Buddings,
Box 126,
Kathmandu, Nepal
March 1995

My day (Hubert) generally starts about six a.m. with my morning walk which forms a major part of my social life. Many of the poor, through whose neighbourhood I normally walk, know me now, greet me and sometimes offer me tea. After I return, we have breakfast and I leave for the office, where I spend most of my time doing computer work. I welcome the chance to attend a meeting or teach a class, also leave my office door open so the trainees come in now and again for a visit or ask for help with their studies.

When I come home at five o'clock, some children may be waiting for me. I pass a few minutes with them and sometimes play a game. In the evening there are often meetings that concern our missionary team of twelve households. Other evenings young people or trainees come in for some tutoring or other help. I serve on the church committee, which meets, typically Nepali style, erratically. I spend some time preparing for a Bible study group which I lead, do some research and prepare for the times I speak in church. The rest of my time I attend to our correspondence – if there are no power failures. In that case we just light a few candles and pretend it is Christmas. We sit and chat, catch up on each other's news and if we are tired, take a nap.

For me (Nan) no two days are the same. In the hot season, that now is swiftly descending, I try to get up before seven to beat the heat. I get the laundry ready for our housekeeper, set the breakfast table and then we have a leisurely breakfast. That is if some of my "clients" are not already waiting on the veranda. Nepalis are early risers!

[Last Tuesday] it was Shiva, who is on T.B. medication and because he is too weak to work he needs some support. We gave him a cup of tea and a slice of bread and listened for awhile to his rapid colloquial Nepali report of the daily news in the village, without understanding half of it. After he left a woman with her teenage son came. The boy suffered from an itch underneath his skin. I sent them to the Mission Hospital in Tansen, a sixteen rupees bus ride away. It turned out that his problem was psychosomatic.

Then there came a woman with a prolapse. Since I have no medical training, I called Sonja, our nurse and together we decided to also refer her to Tansen. The next day she returned happily with her problem cured. From the supply of clothes we received from the WMS I gave her some clothes for her four daughters. She was very happy and thankful.

To meet the expenses of these referrals we have a team fund that is supported by outside donations.

Just as we were ready to sit down for lunch, Meenaa, an illiterate twelve year old came. She cannot go to school because she is needed at home. Whenever she can get away she comes over and I help her a bit with reading and writing Nepali. This time she arrived hungry. Her parents were both ill and because they live hand to mouth there are no reserves to provide for even one day without income. I gave her some lunch, and had her practise her letters and numbers. Two little guys were waiting when Hubert came home at 5 p.m. They played some dominoes and after about half an hour they left each with a banana. Because there were no meetings scheduled, we had the rest of the evening for ourselves.

With warm Christian greetings,
Hubert and Nan

Paula Ryan,
c/o Hsinchu Bible College,
No. 56, Kao-feng Road,
Hsinchu, 30035, Taiwan,
R.O.C.
March 1995

The Canadian Mission staff hosted visitors from Canada at the end of February when Wilma Welsh and Ina Hill came to visit. I was able to go on several outings with them and Joy Randall.

One visit was to the Formosan Aboriginal Village where the nine Taiwan tribes are represented. Houses and other buildings have been constructed to represent the traditional styles of each of the tribes. There is also a variety of activities the visitor can watch such as weaving and carving. The highlight of the day for me was our visit to the open air theatre where we were treated to dances from each tribe. A crowd favorite was the "hair dance" performed by women of the Yamei tribe.

Wilma and Ina also visited with me here at the Bible College where we enjoyed a wonderful dinner at a Mongolian Barbeque hosted by Dr. Joseph Lin, the President of the college. Their visit ended with a Canadian Mission staff meeting at the home of Jack and Betty Geddes in Taipei.

During their visit, I had the great honour of meeting Dr. C. M. Kao, former General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. Dr. Kao is a legend among Taiwanese Christians after serving six years in prison for his beliefs.

February 28 was Peace Memorial Day. This day commemorates the KMT (Kuomintang) massacre of the Taiwanese leaders in 1947, a very important day for the Taiwanese who are still striving for independence.

I was honoured recently when a member of faculty and an administration office worker asked permission to begin attending my sophomore English conversation classes. The two are auditing the classes in hopes of improving their conversational ability. While their presence seemed to unnerve the students at first, the students are now more confident in their own abilities and are willing to speak out and also assist their new classmates.

The spring term is quickly becoming a very busy one for the students. The English Department students held a games afternoon recently where we sang songs, danced, played games and had a competition for prizes. We all enjoyed a fun

- *Wilma Welsh (left) with Paula.*

afternoon and it was good to see all the students enjoying each other's company outside of class. We are very blessed to have a good spirit of fellowship amongst the students.

A recent lunch shared with my friend and co-worker, Melinda, at McDonalds gave a whole new meaning to a "shake". We were sitting on the second floor of the restaurant finishing lunch when suddenly the floor beneath us was rumbling and the tables were all shaking. Instantly the entire restaurant fell silent as everyone realized it was an earthquake. Everyone sat in silence and stared at each other and watched the windows buckling, felt the building moving and heard the rumbling. It was much longer and stronger than any of the other quakes we have felt in Hsinchu since my arrival.

When I first arrived in Taiwan I was struck by the humidity, however, everyone told me it wasn't really humid. Now I finally know what they meant. While the days are warmer, it is also still raining.

With the increase in humidity, the pollution index has also worsened. In the south of the island the pollution index has been over 120 many days whereas in my county is usually between 55-75.

With love and prayers,
Paula

Appointment to Japan

Michael and Wendy Lessard-Clouston and their one year old son, Joel, left March 14 for what they are praying will be a lifetime commitment to teaching in Kwansei-Gakuin University in Japan.

Michael will be teaching English in the business school and leading several Bible Study groups. Wendy will initially devote herself to Joel and settling the family in a new culture.

Michael's salary and most of their expenses will be paid by the university. There are other costs, especially school fees for Joel, for which they may need assistance. International Ministries has appointed Michael as a "missionary associate" to the university, and arrangements have been made to link the family with a local congregation of our partner church, the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

Women Dreaming the World

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In the World

NORWEGIANS PREPARE FOR 1000TH ANNIVERSARY

by Helene Freilem Klingberg

Oslo, 21 April (ENI) – In the year AD 995 Olav Tryggvason landed on the island of Bolmo and conducted the first Christian service of worship in Norway. More than 10,000 people, including leaders of the main Christian denominations, and Norway's King Harald and Queen Sonja, are expected to crowd on to the unsheltered Norwegian island at Pentecost weekend (2 to 5 June) for more than 80 events to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity to Norway by King Olav.

The initiative for the celebrations has mainly come from the Church of Norway, the Lutheran state church, to which 88.8 per cent of Norwegians belong. Ishmael Noko, the general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), will preach at an open-air service on the island.

PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE VISIT

In February, Silas Ncozana, general secretary of the Church of Central Africa, Blantyre Synod, took time out from his six month sabbatical at Princeton University to visit The Presbyterian Church in Canada which is one of the partner churches with the Church of Central Africa.

During his term as general secretary he has seen big changes in his church. A greater sense of stewardship has resulted in increased givings to the work of the church as well as bringing the pay of ministers slightly above the poverty line.

Properties inherited from the Church of Scotland have been developed or the funds from their sale wisely invested with a view to the church becoming financially self supporting. In fact today any money received from partner churches is used for specific projects not the day-to-day operations of the church.

The major problem that both the church and the state face in the financial realm is inflation, presently running between 25 and 35 per cent in Malawi.

Twelve years ago the Blantyre Synod had only five presbyteries, today it has 13. The church is growing at a rate of about three per cent each year. Among Malawi's 10 million citizens, 26 per cent are Presbyterian.

Ncozana says a number of factors account for the rapid growth of his church. Malawi is experiencing a population explosion resulting in the fact that most members of the church are 16 to 35 years old.

More importantly, evangelism is built into the church system in Malawi. Every congregation must establish new satellite congregations (prayer houses) built through person to person evangelism. Once a satellite congregation grows to 250 communicants the presbytery establishes it as a regular congregation. To establish new satellite congregations is one of the mandated responsibilities of elders in Malawi.

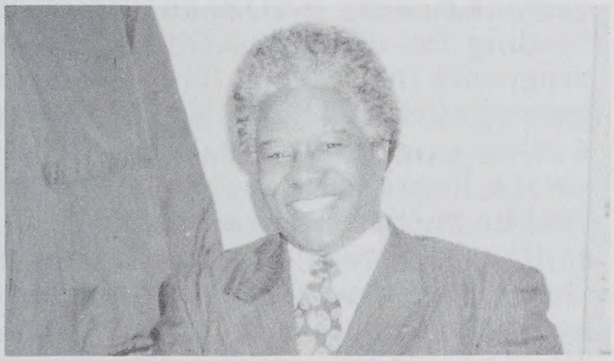
Ncozana also credits the church with paving the way for Malawi's smooth transition to democracy last year. "Before 1992," he says, "no one would have dreamed that Malawi would have opened up to democracy. But, by God's grace it happened." Before democracy anyone who criticized the government ended up in jail or a river infested with crocodiles.

The new government has closed the detention camps and offered free education for primary students. The rush to get an education has meant overcrowding in schools and many churches have opened up their sanctuaries to accommodate the students.

The church wishes to assist the government in these areas knowing that "democracy must result in food on the table and clothes on children."

Ncozana says that the partnership between our two churches is changing as we discover together new areas of cooperation. He appreciates the fact that the Presbyterian Church "stood with us through trying times."

Clara Henderson, working in a quiet way, played a key role in helping in the transition to democracy. Edgar Hielema came just at the right time. He wrote a voter education handbook for use in the synod which was later adopted by the whole country.



- Silas Ncozana

Women play a major role in the church in Malawi. Each congregation has a woman's guild which meets each Thursday for Bible study and other activities such as domestic science, leadership development or child care. Women also play a major role in hospital visitation, teaching and visiting the bereaved.

Ncozana admits that the church has lagged behind in giving women their rightful place in the church. Although the church has had women elders and deacons for some time, they remained largely silent and were relegated to the area of providing hospitality.

Last November a group of church women met and petitioned the Synod of Blantyre for equal opportunities for women in the church. Because of the fear of violence the police were called and the general committee of the church refused to receive the petition. Some of the women involved with the petition have been suspended. The church has appointed a commission to investigate the matter and to report on March 8.

NEW GLOBAL STUDY

Toronto – 20 April 1995 – Canadian churches are joining a global study "gospel and cultures" organized by the World Council of Churches, and are seeking stories from across Canada.

A WCC study paper says culture carries the rich heritage of peoples and the values that shape their identities. "Religion is an essential element of culture. Culture is the medium in and through which the gospel is received, experienced, affirmed and proclaimed," says the document.

The chair of the Canadian Gospel and Cultures Study Project is CCC President Dr. Alexandra Johnston. The coordinator is Rev. Ted Reeve of the Centre for the Study of Religion in Canada, Emmanuel College.

The steering committee is asking Canadian church people to contribute stories, case studies, and other examples from their experience that illustrate how our understanding of, and witness to, the gospel has been shaped by the Canadian culture in which we live. This includes reflections on the role of the gospel in situations where the identity of people is denied by political, social and economic forces. Eventually, the study will look into the question of whether or how we can find a common language or framework within which mutual understanding, communication and accountability are possible among churches in widely different cultures.

Congregations or groups who are interested in participating in the study programme or who wish to receive more information should contact: Rev. Ted Reeve, Centre for the Study of Religion in Canada, 75 Queen's Park Cres. E., Toronto, ON M5S 1K7; Tel: 416-585-4457; Fax 416-585-4516

CHURCH PRESS AWARDS

Ottawa – The United Church Observer with 14 awards was the big winner at the annual awards ceremony of the Canadian Church Press, April 25. The awards for the national church magazine of the United Church of Canada included a first-place tie with the Anglican Journal for the prestigious A.C. Forrest Memorial Award.

The winning entry for the United Church Observer dealt with the sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland, while the Anglican Journal's entry focused on the murder of gay priest Warren Eling in Montreal last year.

Glad Tidings, official publication of the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada won First Prize for Feature Article "A Letter to the Presbyterian Church in Canada" by Emma Paishk (October 1994). It also received an honorable mention for a poem by Barbara Mitchell.

Photo: Kenn Ward

- June Stevenson is shown presenting award to Darrell Dyck, Canada Lutheran.

More than 400 entries from approximately 70 Christian publications in Canada were adjudicated by 10 judges, many of whom were from award-winning-non-church publications. The awards, based on material published in 1994, were presented by CCP president June Stevenson at a banquet at the Chateau Laurier, where the CCP and the Associated Church Press of the U.S.A. were holding a joint annual convention.

The Glad Tidings also received an honorable mention in the ACP awards for an article by Mary Campbell.

CIDA CUTS

In spite of Canada's international reputation as a leader in development education, the Foreign Affairs Department has instructed the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to eliminate funding for development education programs in Canada. This decision goes against the view, expressed by a wide variety of Canadians in the recent Foreign Policy Review, that "public participation remains an essential element in mobilizing a Canadian capacity and commitment to international development." Over 80 local development education groups, all of the provincial councils for international cooperation, and 15 national and provincial development education programs will be affected. TEN DAYS for World Development, the education and action program of the Presbyterian, Lutheran, United, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, will no longer receive any funding from

CIDA and will be forced to reduce its budget by 50%.

The savings associated with this decision will be minimal but the costs for Canadians and for people in the developing world will be great. For more than two decades, funding for global education has raised Canadians' awareness of the root causes of poverty, hunger, and injustice; increased support for international development work; and helped to raise the profile of Canadians around the world as people who are concerned about the problems of people in developing countries. Members of our church have been writing letters to Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet to protest the elimination of funding for development education and a letter from the Presbyterian World Service & Development Committee was sent to CIDA explaining the importance of the TEN DAYS for World Development program for development education work in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. For more information, please contact PWS&D at 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ontario M3C 1J7, Tel: (416) 441-1111, fax: (416) 441-2825.

WOMEN "INVISIBLE" VICTIMS

On International Women's Day, March 8, Amnesty International spotlighted women as the "invisible victims of the 1990s" – with "hidden" violations of their rights often rising out of deeply-rooted discrimination, repression of their activism, and bloody wars and conflicts.

Launching a major worldwide campaign to put the human rights of women on the public and government agenda in the run up to a United Nations Conference on Women in September, the organization said that governments which pay little more than lip service to these rights must be pushed into action.

"So far governments have more or less ignored human rights violations against women – and sometimes effectively given a green light to torture or rape by their police or soldiers," Amnesty International said.

"Governments are now sending worrying signals that they want to limit – rather than promote – women's civil and political rights at the UN conference."

In its campaign – which will include petitions to governments worldwide – Amnesty International called on those governments to put in place a 15-point plan to promote and protect women's human rights.

Birthdays

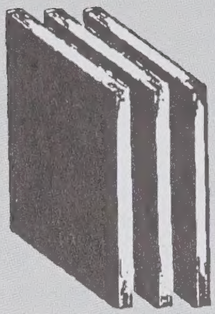
Overseas Staff

August

4 - David Barrie, Malawi
7 - Andrew McLean, Taiwan
9 - Paul McLean, Taiwan
14 - David Kent, Nepal
14 - Kristi Assaly, Jerusalem
15 - Urey Karen Onuoha, Nigeria
18 - Betty Geddes, Taiwan

September

8 - Stephen Kent, Nepal
14 - Michael Lessard-Clouston, Japan
16 - Arlene Onuoha, Nigeria
16 - Denise van Wissen, Central America
19 - Craig Taylor, Nepal
27 - Clara Henderson, Malawi
27 - Susan Raeburn-Cherradi, Hong Kong
28 - Alison Crosby
29 - Mary Beth McLean, Taiwan



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PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU *by Katherine Scholes. Published by Sierra Books/Little, Brown & Co. (Inc.). Price $7.95.*

Every so often a book appears which has a universality of appeal so strong as to evoke a deep response and demand attention. This is such a book.

Beginning with concepts and questions understandable to even young children, the text is aided throughout with page-size illustrations in warm earth tones. Gradually the author leads her readers ever more deeply into an understanding of peace: peace is having the things you need; peace is being able to have, or to hope and work for, at least *some* of the things you want; peace is being allowed to be different and letting others be different from you; and in the end the only hope of lasting peace - in our homes, our communities, and all the countries in the world – is a peace that is real for everyone.

Peace must be worked at. It requires listening to one another, and often some compromise. Sometimes it even requires the help of others outside the problem to resolve a conflict on a local or global level. And sometimes the quest for peace leads to a better way – the beginning of something new and good.

The message is challenging; the message is clear. Each one of us is called to be a peacemaker where we've been planted. And that means, too, being good stewards of our planet earth – learning to live in peace with the land.

While this book never once mentions God, it does speak of the "inside" peace acknowledged and taught in different philosophies and religious faiths. It leaves room for a deep Christian response. It is a book which deserves a place in every home, every classroom, every church and community library – a book whose perceptions and practical hints we should all be digesting – quickly!

Beth McIntosh

EARS *AND THE* SECRET SONG *by Meryl Doney. Illustrated by William Geldart. Published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995. Price $22.25 (Hardcover). To be available soon in paperback.*

The story begins at the birth of a tiny mouse and her sisters and brothers in a wheat field. It is the tale of a new born harvest mouse to whom, "The world looked a very beautiful place".

Ears, the little mouse pokes her nose out of the nest and begins to explore her new surroundings. She learns from her mother the tools of survival; how to read the signs of rain and to gather and to store seeds for the winter.

The comparison of the summer green wheat, the gold of the sun to the long winter cold and grey illustrates the death and rebirth of life. An optimistic book, warning of danger and the enemies of living creatures, the mice learn the meaning of the "secret song."

The author writes in a soothing fashion and promises hope as she tells of the learning process and the experience of understanding life.

This little book is illustrated in soft, subdued colours: different from the usual children's books, it has an appealing gentleness. Children will enjoy the drawings of the mice as they tumble and play over the pages of the book. Can be read by six to seven year olds, and read to three to five year olds.

Meryl Doney is a freelance editor, a writer, and the managing editor of her own publishing company in England. She has written eighty-three books for children.

William Geldart is an artist who lives and works in Henbury, England.

Marian LeFeuvre

"I" - Witness

About twenty years ago in late July, I visited a friend, Mary Bailey in Silverton, a sleepy little town from silver mining days. It is nestled on Slocan Lake with Selkirk Mountains in the background.

A young man with a jeep took us up Mt. Idaho. In mining days many prospectors came from the USA and brought American names with them. We started from Sandon, a bustling town in mining days. It had straddled a rushing mountain stream which had destroyed the town in a flash spring flood. The remains of the hotel, the dance hall, saloon and numerous shops still hold vigil. As we progressed up the mountain, we passed several abandoned mining shafts dug into the mountainside. What stories those shafts could tell!

After travelling several miles we came to deep snow, so hiked from here. As we switch-backed up the trail, kept open by B.C. Tel, to service a relay station on the mountain summit, we noticed the mountainside bathed in a flow of soft yellow. The entire mountainside was a mass of yellow fawn lilies and western anemone which sprang up as the snow receded.

Climbing still further we reached the ridge and behold the warmth of the sun had brought summer flowers to the other side of the mountain - daisies, blue lupin, flaming Indian Paint Brush, wild columbine, towhead babies and wild tiger lilies. What a display of colour as far as the eye could see, with Slocan Lake in the valley and snow capped Selkirk Mountains for a backdrop.

Since then this area has been declared a Provincial Park, Valhalla Wilderness Park, named for an ancient Viking myth. Valhalla was heaven for slain heroes. Indeed, heroes had roamed these hills over the years.

Loving heavenly Father, giver of all life, may the warmth of your love touch my heart and transform my life as the warmth of your sun transformed the flowers, that the world may know I belong to You. Amen.

Margaret Hepburn,
Chilliwack, B.C.

John and Viola Duff in Nicaragua

John - Community Pastoral Ministry:

Early this year, because a European volunteer was leaving the country, I found myself taking over evening classes in English twice a week for dozens of children and young people ages seven to 27 in an impoverished barrio in the heart of Managua.

I came on behalf of the Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua, where I work in the Theology and Pastoral Care Department. As part of their ministry, they have encouraged staff and students to participate in a program of outreach to help families in Barrio Jorge Dimitrov look after the basic needs of their children, and get them to school, something that involves supplying school uniforms and shoes (without them you don't get to attend!), exercise books, pens and pencils, and registration fees, for the children in the program.

The structural adjustment program imposed on Nicaragua by international financial institutions has mandated a reduction in national budgets for education at a time when the population of school-age children is growing dramatically.

Along with colleagues in my Department I visit the 50 families we are supporting and try to foster friendships between these families and their supporters at the University. We take pictures of the families and we ask how the children are doing in school. We see the leaky roofs that single mothers have neither the money nor the skills to fix, but we see, too, the freshly ironed uniforms ready for the students to wear to school later in the day.

We come upon families afflicted with dengue (a painful fever that is caused by mosquitoes, the result of stagnant water trapped in many placed in the barrio), but we also come upon families whose members work as volunteers for the betterment of the community – as health promoters, and in many other ways.

When someone dies, we attend the funeral and visit the family. A mother died of cancer in one family recently; the teenage daughters are left to look after four younger children while the father goes out to work. The family is fortunate in that the father is present in the home; many fathers are absent.

We also arrange activities to bring together people in the barrio and people from the University. On one such day we took about 125 people to a recreation centre in the country, where we talked about what we might do together in the future, about the strengths we could build on and the needs that called for support. The kids made posters to spell out the word "amigos" (friends) with Scripture verses and pictures to accompany each letter of the word –

and also went swimming, had a treasure hunt, sang songs, and climbed high into tall trees looking for mangos.

The committee organized a "food-for-work" program to clean up all the community schools, day care centres, and clinics, and the land around them. On Mother's Day our Department put on a program for children and their mothers, and supplied a piñata, and refreshments. The materials required for these programs have come from special gifts sent by two Ottawa-area congregations, and individuals in other places in Canada as well.

Now, after almost a year of building relationships and trust, people in the barrio are asking us to do different things. They would like a course on parenting. They want a Vacation Bible School and maybe a Sunday School. They search for some way of gathering together to hear about a kind of Christian faith that doesn't take them out of the world, but rather sends them back into the community to help make it a better place to live. They look forward to the possibility that Canadian youth volunteers might come and help them renovate run-down housing, or build a new work-shop to teach carpentry and metal-work.

Thank you for your prayers, your support through *Presbyterians Sharing*, and the special gifts that help us put on good programs and start to respond to great needs.

Viola - Nursing Education:

In the past year I have been learning about and teaching nursing at the Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua at the School of Nursing. I have really learned a lot about the challenges for students and the terrible problems for the people who are sick in this country.

The health care system has two levels. For the people that can pay there are fairly good services. For those without money, conditions are terrible. The patients must buy their own medicines, and if they do not have the money, they must beg, or go without them. On busy days in the hospitals, there are two new mothers and two newborns in one bed, sometimes without any sheets to go over the rubberized mattress covers.

For many nursing students poverty is a way of life. Some of the students sit in the classroom hungry because they do not have money for both tuition and food. There is no money to buy books so they must read the few texts in the library. The classrooms are incredibly hot in the afternoons so the study conditions are certainly not ideal.

I have been helping at the University with the curriculum development for nurses, working with the national nursing association, helping to write the first nursing journal and teaching a few classes now that my Spanish is getting a bit better. The teachers teach against great odds. How does one teach students to give good physical care when there are no towels and no soap to wash a patient after a hemorrhage? How does one teach nursing assessment when it is felt that only physicians can examine the patient? How does one teach students the value of reading when there are few texts in the University?

Yet, there is a hunger for learning new information, a wish for change, an awareness that after years of crisis – earthquake, revolution, contra war, and economic embargo – it is time to work for on changes in the profession. ...It is an exciting time to be working in Nicaragua. We are glad to be part of the process of change.

Forward In Faith

July and August have traditionally been considered vacation months. Whether we vacation now or at some other period, the summer months give us an opportunity to assess what we have accomplished and what we expect, particularly with regard to the WMS as many do not have regular meetings during these two months. Will reflection result in refreshment?

In a previous column mention was made of the changes we could expect with our partnership in Regional Staff. This is an important factor we might assess as the WMS has committed some $390,000 as a share of this part of the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This is to be used to support seven workers involved, mainly in the educational and leadership roles of mission. Some fear that we will lose control of our area work but this is not necessarily the case as long as we maintain strong representation in the support groups related to field workers.

In addition to our financial commitment to Regional Staffing, it is essential that we remain involved in the consultative process in our own Synodicals/Synods and that we keep ourselves informed of what is being done – whether in congregations and church schools, WMS groups, camps, on university campuses, or in leadership training.

The WMS too has a commitment to the Life and Mission Agency of the church to provide some funding to be used in International and Canada Ministries. This includes work in Malawi, South Africa, Taiwan and Nepal, the interior of British Columbia, work with native peoples and new church development such as Comox-Courtenay, among other commitments (See Annual Report p.22).

Our church, like many other organizations and businesses, faces accountability, cost effectiveness, downsizing, but we have the assurance given in Psalm 48:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging". With that powerful reassurance, we can go forward in faith with optimism and hope.

In closing, please note that as of May 31st, contributions to our 1995 objective total $255,195. It is you, the individual member, who "can enable us to run in such a way as to get the prize". (see I Corinthians 9:24)

Marian Weldon, Treasurer

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In the Society

PRESBYTERIAL

The highlight of the 81st Annual Meeting of **Superior** Presbyterial held on February 25 was the Mission Presentation by Brenda Patterson, assisted by Ruth George, and Donna Johnson. These women took us for a "long walk" in Malawi, Africa, from a hospital to a playground, and to a clinic. The information came from the PCC Children's Offering Project.

The theme of the day *Prisoner of Hope - Claiming the Promise*, was taken from Romans 8:24, with the opening worship conducted by Lakeview Presbyterian Women. The Mission Study Packets were reviewed by Literature Secretary Brenda Patterson.

The "fun" break was carried out by Signe MacKay. Using "disposable" skis and other props, she presented her version of the Nordic Games, which are being held in Thunder Bay in March.

Rev. Blake Carter, AEC then spoke on the WMS Five-Year Plan.

Following lunch, served by the Iona Guild of St. Andrew's, a Memorial Service was presented by the Evening Guild of First Church. There being no changes from last year, Rev. Carter reinstalled the officers, adapting a moving worship service from *Ten Days for World Development*.

The Annual Meeting of **Kamloops** Presbyterial was held in Penticton, B.C. March 5-6. The meeting focused on Isaiah 43, and Laurie Jackson, B.C. Synodical President, spoke on the Sunday night. A workshop based on "Threatened with Resurrection" was held with those present coming away elated and hopeful. Due to the distance within the Presbyterial and Presbytery, we are going to experiment with a two- or three-day Presbyterial retreat which will combine fellowship, study, and prayer as well as business. It will be organized, hosted, and run, by each group in turn and will meet once a year, in June. At this time the Council Delegate will report in person. We hope to have just a Contact Person-Adult Secretary and a Treasurer one day.

Edmonton-Peace River Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting on February 19, at Millwoods Church, Edmonton, Alberta using the theme, *A New Outreach*. The devotional was led by Anja Oostenbrink, AEC, and the President, Catherine Leadbetter conducted the business.

Norma Proudfoot, Synodical President led a discussion of the patterns that evolved from an October Synodical Workshop. This discussion resulted in listing our final decisions regarding the pattern we wish to be submitted to Synodical.

Following lunch, guest speaker Maxine Taylor was welcomed. Maxine taught music and other subjects in a mission school in Nepal. Her husband Rev. C. Taylor is principal of the school. Maxine gave a most interesting presentation, enhanced with a display of pictures, art, crafts etc. from Nepal. Catherine Leadbetter thanked Mrs. Taylor.

The new officers were installed by Anja Oostenbrink. The meeting closed with a hymn and prayer by Millie Freeman.

The Annual Meeting of **Westminster** Presbyterial was held in Knox Church, New Westminster, B.C. on March 8. Rev. Calder opened with worship using the text Matthew 7:24-27. He expressed the feeling that "...The WMS can be new and exciting. We should try to reach younger women and help them grow in faith. We have to accommodate their life-styles and family if we are to attract them.

Laurie Jackson brought greetings from Synodical. Janet Tremblay led the Bible Study based on parts of Acts 4 and 5. We are committed to serve Jesus Christ in whatever way we can.

Grace Murdoch reviewed several books. A discussion was held regarding the future role of WMS and youth and children.

The new presbyterial officers were installed by Synodical president Laurie Jackson with Betty McLagan as president. Betty gave the closing prayer and benediction.

The 81st Annual Meeting of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held at St. Andrew and St. Paul Church in Montreal on March 11.

Greetings were extended for the host church by Betty Mitchell who also gave the history of the church.

Presiding over the meeting was President Lois Klempa. The worship service was led by Dr. James Armour who spoke of the woman at the well.

- Left to right: Lois Klempa, Joan Rochemont Kristensen and Mary Lou Johnston.

After a business meeting, an exercise break was led by Druse Bryan.

Speaker, Joan Rochemont Kristensen who was appointed by the WMS to Nigeria in 1954, gave a very interesting account of her time spent there.

The afternoon session began with a sing-song led by Joycelyn Mackay accompanied by Jan Manson.

Tamiko Corbett, Executive Secretary of the WMS suggested we form small groups to discuss the WMS Five-Year Plan "Threatened with Resurrection".

The "Looney Tin" offering will go to the Elizabeth Kennedy Memorial Fund. This fund will be used to provide financial assistance for people in our church who wish to attend conferences or other events concerning the place of women in church and society.

Druse Bryan, on behalf of the Presbyterial presented out-going President Lois Klempa with an Honorary Life Membership certificate and pin.

Joycelyn Mackay gave the report of the Nominating Committee. Ann Milne, AEC installed the officers. The new president is Mary-Lou Johnston.

The Annual Meeting of **Winnipeg** Presbyterial was held at First Church, Winnipeg on March 4. Following a traditional breakfast, a service of Worship and Remembrance was conducted by Past President Doris Binding, assisted by President Noreen Gillanders.

Rev. Blake Carter, AEC, introduced the guest speaker and workshop leader, Helen Quinn, of the Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg. This centre plays a prominent role in the Winnipeg community, providing consultation, training and related services to the voluntary, private and public sectors. Mrs. Quinn had read the WMS Five-Year Plan in advance, and her presentation was stimulating, thought-provoking and encouraging.

Lunch was provided by the Auxiliary of First Church, followed by the business meeting.

Noreen Gillanders acknowledged the service of members of the Executive. Rev. Blake Carter installed the officers. New Honorary President is Nancibelle Arnold, longtime committed member of the Presbytery/Presbyterial.

Blake Carter brought the meeting to a close with a service of Communion.

Bruce-Grey Presbyterial held its Annual Meeting April 5 in St. Paul's Church, Wiarton, Ontario. President Carol Mackowski opened the meeting. A welcome was extended by Anne Huisman and Rev. Charlene Wilson, Wiarton. A poem was read by Eleanor Thompson in memory of Lynne Longmuir, former Area Educational Consultant.

Margaret Greig, AEC, spoke on her recent trip to Guatemala and Nicaragua. She painted a vivid picture of people who live under the worst conditions and yet have a deep faith, concern for others, and a strong determination to recapture the hope of their ancestors.

Special music during the day was provided by Rev. John Wilson, guitar; Marilyn Bannister, soloist; Betty Nixon, pianist; Rev. Charlene Wilson, hymn sing leader.

Revs. John and Charlene Wilson, St. Paul's, Wiarton, Directors of Huron Feathers, Sauble Beach, spoke enthusiastically about the programs and activities available during the summer months.

Courtesies were extended by Mae Angelos, Owen Sound. Gail Connor, Southampton led the worship service. Dorothy Lamont, Port Elgin, thanked Carol Mackowski for her dedicated service as Presbyterial President. Rev. Charlene Wilson conducted the installation of officers and the closing Communion Service.

The Spring Rally of **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held in St. Andrew's, Strathroy, Ontario, on April 25. A bountiful potluck supper preceded the evening program.

President Bonnie Arbour chaired and opened with a poem "Make a Rainbow".

AEC Margaret Greig, using slides, shared her experiences in early '95 when she visited the countries of Central America.

Special music was rendered by Marie Smith and Susan Henderson of the host church.

Quebec Presbyterial held a Thankoffering meeting April 10 at St. Andrew's Church, Melbourne, Quebec. President, Roxieanne Walker called the meeting to order. Robin Fowler, president of Presbyterian Women warmly welcomed members and guests.

Ann Milne, AEC led in devotions on the theme "Gifts". Her meditation centered on changes which are taking place in the WMS. She installed the officers for 1995. Roxieanne Walker presented Ann with a gift and extended best wishes for her upcoming marriage.

Vera Hughes introduced guest speakers, Virginia and Richard Strout from "Walk Through the Bible Ministries". The Strouts had been to Russia to help educators understand the foundation of Christian Education in the schools. They gave interesting accounts of their experiences along with a slide presentation. Prayer was asked for teachers in the Ukraine. Isabel Beattie thanked the Strouts.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Three Presidents:

At Hamilton & London Synodical Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls April 18-19, pictured are l to r Bessie Robertson, President Essex-Kent Presbyterial, Rev. Rosemary Doran, incoming President Council Executive, and Eleanor Irwin, President Hamilton & London Synodical.

Photo: Alice Brown

LOCAL

The WMS of **St. Andrew's, South Eldon**, Ontario welcomed several neighbouring groups to their spring Thankoffering recently. President Helen Torrey introduced a string ensemble from Fenelon Falls Secondary School under the direction of Sandra Van Barr. They delighted the gathering with several selections.

Ruth MacEachern, Marie MacEachern and Ruth Flynt led an Easter Worship Service based on John 19 and Mark 16.

Special speaker was Grace Jess of Coboconk who gave a very inspiring message entitled "The Fragrance of Fellowship". Rev. Mary Whitson thanked all who took part. She then closed the meeting with prayer.

A pleasant time of lunch and fellowship brought the evening to a close.

Muriel Vitek, born December 13, 1923 at Midland, Ontario, passed away February 16, 1995 at the Creston, British Columbia hospital. She had struggled with cancer for many years.

Muriel held many offices in WMS, both in her local group and at the Presbyterial level. Due to illness and age the Creston WMS disbanded in December 1993. Muriel and Ethel Sutcliffe agreed to stay on the Presbyterial executive as auxiliary members of the Cranbrook group. Muriel with great efficiency carried out her duties until she resigned in December 1994. Her deep spirituality, and loving friendship will be greatly missed.

Not only did she work pleasantly and willingly within her church but had involvements as a volunteer with the Cancer Society, enjoyed oil painting, photography, and loved nature. She had served during World War II as a member of the Women's Army Corps.

Rev. Doug Johns of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church officiated at the Memorial Service held February 21.

ANNIVERSARY

Thirty years ago in March, 1965, the Knox Presbyterian Women's Group was born in Port Alberni, B.C. At that time our church had two women's groups: the Mary Currie Group and the Women's Auxiliary to the

OTEN WARD ZANOLLI VAN ZOEREN WEENING WILLIAMSON
BROOKES BUDDING CARSON CHERRY COSS CROSS CROSSWI
PM MOTTO
As much for others as for ourselves
GO AND TELL

- Members of Knox Women's Group, Port Alberni celebrate 30th Anniversary.

WMS. It was decided the congregation would be better served if these two groups joined together to become the Knox Presbyterian Women's Group which is still active today.

On March 11, 1995, our group held a 30th Anniversary Congregational Dinner. Some of the members of our current group were original members 30 years ago. Some out-of-town guests, who were also original members, were able to join us for this special celebration.

We had a lovely evening, a good turn-out and special entertainment by the Halo Express, the youth choir of our church.

IN MEMORIAM

Minnie Myrtle Rose

Myrtle Rose died on March 17, 1995 at the Toronto East General Hospital in her 86th year.

Myrtle was the youngest of a family of seven. She had four brothers (one of whom was killed in World War 1) and two sisters; all predeceased her. She was born in Madoc on June 1, 1909 and was educated there.

Myrtle went to Business College in Belleville and received her secretarial training there. On coming to Toronto she was private secretary to the owner of the Jeffery Manufacturing Company where she worked for many years.

In 1959 Myrtle moved on to the WMS (W.D.) and was Assistant to the Treasurer until August 1974.

In failing health for the past year, Myrtle succumbed to pneumonia. Her funeral service was held at the Trull Funeral Home on March 19. Rev. Alan Stewart made the service a tribute and celebration of Myrtle's life and, though many tears were shed, everyone left enlightened by memories of her.

A Memorial Service was held at Westview Presbyterian Church on the following Sunday morning and was well attended by relatives and members of the church family.

- Minnie Myrtle Rose

Myrtle was a faithful member of Westview for 32 years, serving the Lord as an Elder, Clerk of Session, Secretary to the Sunday School and her greatest love was the Margaret D. Swann Auxiliary of the WMS. She was a loyal and devoted member of the church and will be lovingly remembered.

Barbara Jessiman Weir

Mrs. Barbara J. Weir, Order of Diaconal Ministries, died April 17, 1995 at home near London, Ontario.

Barbara Weir (Isaac) graduated from Ewart College (Presbyterian Missionary and Deaconess Training School) and served with congregations in Hamilton and London. She then served as Hospital Chaplain for the Presbytery of London before taking temporary leave from full time duties with the Presbyterian Church to become a full time wife and mother. Barbara continued her studies and to further her expertise with young children, earned a Certificate in Early Childhood Education from Fanshawe College. During this period in her life she enjoyed a term as president of the local Home and School Association.

At the time of her death Barbara was again serving as Hospital Chaplain with the Presbytery of London and was a member of the Pastoral Care Department of Victoria Hospital in London. Barbara was proud to be called as a member of the Order of Diaconal Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Barbara Weir was the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. James A. Isaac and is survived by husband

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Emily Ann Boyce,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, Ont.

Mrs. Mary Agnew,
St. Andrew's, Brandon, Man.

Mrs. Helen Grant,
Kenyon, Dunvegan, Ont.

Mrs. Matilda Alexander,
Durham, Ont.

Mrs. Verna Taylor,
First, Edmonton, Alberta

Mrs. Donalda Walker,
Burns Mosa, Glencoe, Ont.

Mrs. George Calder,
St. John & St. Andrew,
Hamilton, Ont.

Mrs. Mary Agnew,
St. Paul's, Hartney and
St. Andrew's, Brandon, Man.

Margaret "Peggy" Bray,
St. Andrew's, Huntsville, Ont.

Mrs. Lena Douglas,
Miss Bessie Reid,
Knox, Leamington, Ont.

Mrs. Audrey Carter,
St. Paul's, Leaskdale, Ont.

Dorothy Ellen MacKay,
(wife of the late Rev. Dr.
Clifton James MacKay)
St. Andrew's, Lindsay, Ont.

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Valetta, Merlin, Ont.

Mrs. Multreda Coughlin,
Bonar, Port McNicoll, Ont.

Mrs. Jack (Edith) Porteous,
Chippawa, Niagara Falls, Ont.

Mrs. Greta Adams,
Paterson Memorial, Sarnia,
Ont.

Mrs. Hilda Ross,
(mother of Rev. Alan Ross and
Florence Ross)
St. John's Milliken,
Scarborough, Ont.

Mary Sutherland,
Knox, Selkirk, Man.

Mrs. Jean Bain,
St. Andrew's, Stratford, Ont.

Miss Helen Boutilier,
(formerly Mt. Pleasant)
Central, Vancouver, B.C.

Miss Helen Pletsch,
Knox, Walkerton, Ont.

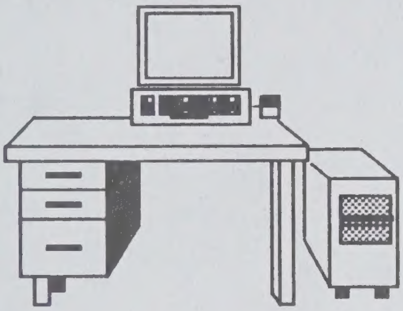
Mrs. Minnie Winnifred (Min)
Osborne,
Weston, Ont.

Miss Agnes Williamson,
St. Andrew's, Wingham, Ont.

Mrs. Ina Gros,
St. John's, Winnipeg, Man.

Reminder: When sending in a name for the *In Remembrance* column, please give the name of the Church and how you would like the name listed i.e. Mrs., Miss, etc. We usually like to have the person's first name. It is also helpful to send in the name directly to the Glad Tidings office as soon as possible after the person's passing. This prevents the notice from being too outdated. Notices for "In Remembrance" are the responsibility of the Local Group Secretary.

William, son John and daughter Nancy both of Toronto, and son Paul of Woodstock. She also is survived by her sister Jeanne (Tester) of Dundas, Ontario, and brother the Rev. Dr. William Isaac of Truro, Nova Scotia, and brother-in-law the Rev. James Weir of Burlington, Ontario.



Circulation News

If you are an individual subscriber, the renewal form we send to you in the fall needs to be returned as soon as possible. Having these forms to us no later than the end of November saves us time and money in not having to follow up later.

Are you transferring to another group/congregation? Please notify the previous and new Glad Tidings Secretaries that you have transferred. When doing this, just give the new secretary the number from the label on your magazine for them to record on the subscription list before it is returned to the office. This way it will be easier for us to find your subscription and prevent any duplication. This transaction is less costly for distribution than cancelling with one group and being added as a new member with another group.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

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Glad Tidings

September/October 1995

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Glad Tidings

Sept./Oct. 1995 **Vol. 71 No. 5**

L. JUNE STEVENSON
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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

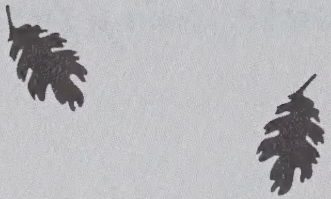
GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

This issue...
Rejoicing in harvest and Thanksgiving.

CREDITS: Cover photo by Katherine Allen taken at Fernwood Market in Stayner, Ontario.

Harvest . . .



by Linda Wegner

There is nothing so unique as harvest time. Whether on the prairies, whether beneath the majestic mountains or nestled by the pounding oceans, the time of reaping has an excitement reserved for itself.

The fields have been plowed and tended and now the bins are full. The gardens have been weeded and tilled and rows of canned preserves testify that, once again, the earth has yielded its bounty. Nets have been mended, boats have been repaired and a glut of salmon greets the eye with undulating brilliance. Harvest has come.

There is nothing so devastating as a failed crop. Energies poured into the earth are pummelled and smashed by a single hailstorm. Worms, ignorant of our desperate need for food, chew unbidden on carefully guarded plants. The rains fail and crops shrivel. The heavens release a torrent of rain and all the plans wrapped up in that plot of land are washed away with the precious top soil. The fish are gone...no one knows for sure when, or if, they will return. Harvest has passed by.

But as Christians we manage. We cut back or draw on last year's blessings and we go on. All the time that we are lamenting over what might have been, we continue to enjoy freedom, the blessings of family and the unfailing provision of our God.

How the heart of our Creator is moved with the plight of those who know failure after failure. Abuse, neglect, poverty and pain of every kind—describable and indescribable—characterize their lives. Their harvest never materializes; their reaping yields only hurt and despair.

God's Word commands that seeds be planted. God's eye beholds and God's ear hears the cry of those in bondage. In a generation that proclaims a "me-first" gospel, words such as sacrifice, sharing and simplicity are not extremely popular. The Lord Jesus has commissioned us to reach out, with compassion and truth, to a world that is dying for lack of the basic necessities of life.

Harvest is coming. May we have planted good seed.

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving for blessings . . .

Counting Blessings

by Gladys Nolan

When life seems unfair, as sometimes happens, I am more aware of my blessings than usual. It is very important to balance the book of life, as it were.

Recently, my usually happy life erupted like a volcano. Things happened that are far too painful now to recall, but with prayers, and support of friends (whom I have always considered to be more valuable than gold), and remembering to count my many blessings, I have survived many ordeals. I am back on track now, looking forward to a brighter future.

When there are emergencies, real problems, it is the little things that help to get us through. For example, just at the time when I thought I would really fall apart, a dear grandson came in to give me a small round wicker basket with a bird's head for a lid.

"Here Grans," he said as he took the top off, "Put all of your troubles in here, close the lid, and forget them."

While I could have wept because of his thoughtful ways, I smiled in gratitude. A real blessing that boy!

Then, after I had stood in a long line-up at my bank during this time of many problems, a very busy clerk became a blessing. Her warm smile and friendly "How are you today?" was like a ray of sunshine through the dark cloud I was in.

"Fine!" I answered enthusiastically. I really did feel better.

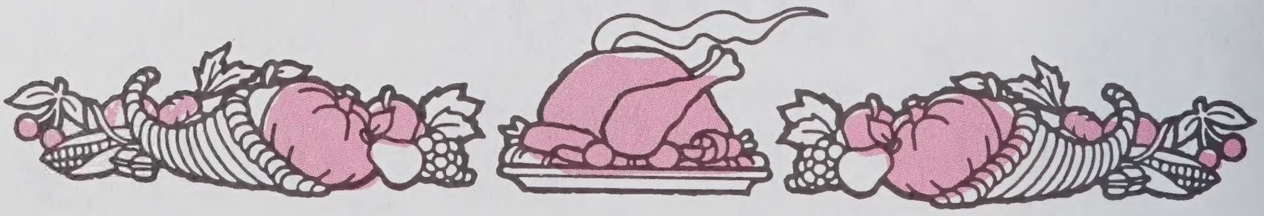
Friends, telephone calls, cards, letters gave much support. My next door neighbor brought his five-year-old daughter Kristy over.

"Kristy insisted on coming to see if you are alright. She hasn't seen you lately. She thought you might be ill."

Kristy had often chatted with me as we shared cookies or other treats together. As I held her in my arms, I remembered Mark 10:14. "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Although Kristy may never know it, she was a real blessing to me that day, as she is so often.

Many blessings do outweigh the hard times in life, if we look for them.



Thanksgiving for nature . . .

“Leviathan”

There go the ships; and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. Psalm 104:26

When sailing, I sense the Lord’s presence, in the rolling surf below the rails,
in the awesome fury of wind, as it breathes life’s force into the sails.
I can’t help but feel the Lord is pleased, as playful porpoise leap swiftly through,
the imparting spray from off the bow. When I see Orca and her two young whales,
rise gracefully on the horizon,
I imagine the beauty of their song and know that this is the “Leviathan”
of the deep, singing praises to our creator above.
Sunlight glistens and dances along water’s edge, like so many diamonds,
only a thousand times more precious, Lord.
Nature’s sounds unite, in a symphony of praise, illuminated before all who see,
a still life in motion in God’s canvas.
I long to be there even now.
Thank you Lord, for your handiwork.

Ross Lynem

Thanksgiving for silence . . .

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him . . .
Psalm 37:7a NRSV.

Enrich Your Life With Silence

by Gail Northgrave

We live in a restless, hectic world. How often do we take time to just sit and enjoy the stillness of life? To watch the leaves moving gently in the breeze on a warm summer's day, or to follow the movement of a snowflake is a lost art. We've forgotten how to reminisce. Daily we react to life, instead of living.

I know because for thirty years that is precisely how I spent my life. Reacting!

One day I decided to get off the merry-go-round. I had to, my health was failing and life didn't seem worth living.

It hasn't been easy. Problems still arise, but because I make use of silence on a daily basis, I am better able to master the crises as they arise.

I never liked silence. Give me noise. I didn't want to be alone with my own thoughts and feelings. I needed a flurry of activity. I did not know how to be creative during moments of relaxation.

I could not enjoy my own company. Give me people.

Lastly, everything had to be joyful. Finding gratification in problem solving was obscure to me.

"There are three silences", said Longfellow. "The first of speech, the second of desire and the third of thought."

The first, the silence of speech, is quite a challenge. How often do I want to have the last word?

The silence of desire is harder still. I have a fondness for money, trips, recognition, power, the list is endless. Whenever I forget to still my desires, I lose peace within.

The third, the silence of thought, has to be the most difficult. Yet, it is priceless. When I quiet my thoughts, I am recreating and enriching myself. I am increasing my potential to become my hidden self.

At times I don't like my thoughts and feelings. Life gets too upsetting. It is then that I tend to get overactive. I run away from myself. Silence becomes my number one enemy. Yet, I know what I must do to regain my tranquility. I must be alone. I listen to my heart. I reflect on what is causing me distress. I plan my course of action.

Emotionally I got upset rather easily. I felt threatened whenever I was criticized. I'm overly sensitive. During periods of silence I discovered and accepted these adverse qualities. Now I am free. I realize that not everyone will like and approve of me, but today that is all right. Over the years, by deliberately choosing to acquaint me with myself and accept that self, most of the time I am at peace within. Silence is becoming my friend.

I hope to continue to discover the unique person I am. Therefore, each day I give myself the gift of silence. Whenever I don't allow for quiet times, life gets out of perspective. I overlook my basic needs: my need to love and be loved. I revert to my old ways of complaining, being critical and dissatisfied. I compare my life, my husband, my children and my parents to others.

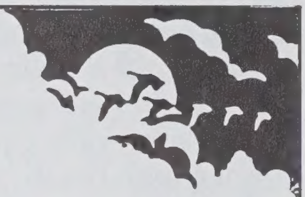
It takes discipline to include quiet time in my day. Time to consider the realities of life, the reality that my life on earth is limited. Therefore, I try to develop my potential and use my life to empower my loved ones and those with whom I come in contact.

In silence, I have come to know God. For years I learned all about God, yet I never knew God. I memorized prayers, but I didn't know how to pray. Now I attempt to make my life a prayer, a prayer of thanksgiving, trust, hope and love.

There is another aspect of silence I employ each day: silencing thoughts of self-doubt, sadness, sickness and fear. I entertain instead thoughts of self-confidence, joy, health and courage.

I have great expectations for myself. I want to present people with the real me. At times I have misgivings, but during my moments of silence I obtain the strength not to fear the outcome whether it is a welcome or a rejection.

Now I attempt to make my life a prayer,
a prayer of thanksgiving, trust, hope and love.



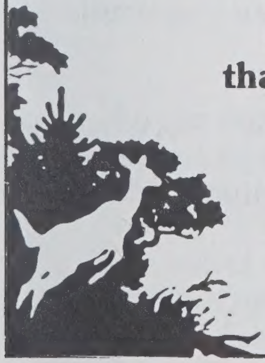
Autumn's Step

I've walked in Autumn's step and seen
how crimson red and russet blooms
mingle with the shades of green
how milkweed spills its seeds of praise
and bids them float with simple grace
on honey-scented wings

I've walked in Autumn's step and seen
how amber threads of harvest
weave their tapestry across earth's fertile land
how acorns fall from burnished oaks
and swiftly drop
to kiss the moistened sod

I've walked in Autumn's step and seen
how some Majestic Hand has lent its touch
to set the woods aflame
how loving arms have tipped the sun
to paint the hills in saffron-colored hue
and yes, though times I walk alone
in Autumn's step, I always know
that God has walked here too

Barbara Mitchell



Thanksgiving for family . . .

Grandpa Won't Pay Attention

by Art White

Grandma stopped to listen. She was sure she heard a voice, perhaps from the kitchen. Who could it be? Amy and Noah had gone to the park with their Grandpa.

There...she heard it again, a quiet whisper coming from the far end of their large, old-fashioned kitchen. Grandma tip-toed closer to get a better look.

"Noah's his favourite," said the whisper. "He's Noah's pal. Grandpa's always playing with Noah, never just with me...."

It was her granddaughter's voice, coming from the corner by the fridge. "Amy must be talking to her dolly," she thought. "It sounds like her brother and Grandpa went to the park without her. Poor dear, she's always feeling left out."

Grandma decided to make it better. "Well hello there, Miss Amy," she said, pretending surprise. "I thought you were at the park with Noah and your Grandpa."

"I wanted to. I told Grandpa not to leave without me, but they did anyway."

"You must be disappointed, dear. You told Grandpa not to forget you but they left anyway?"

"I heard them outside. You can *always* hear Noah, inside or out. When I went to find them later they were gone. They're always doing things without me...."

"So, you're stuck with Grammy again, are you? Tell you what. You help me finish the beds, then we'll go hunt up those mean boys and make 'em treat us to an ice cream. How's that sound?"

Amy's face brightened. "Can you walk that far, Grandma?"

"Can I walk that far? Amy, child, I can walk as far as your old Grandpa can, which is about up to the park and back. Help me with those beds, then we'll see which one of us will need to stop for a rest first...."

Amy was feeling better. She put her dolly on the window sill and gave her grandmother a big hug. Grabbing her cozy hand she said, "Okay Grandma, it's off to work we go...."

"Making beds with you isn't a bore, Grandma, it's fun!"

"It's fun for me, too. I like doing 'house-fun' with you."

"You mean *housework*, don't you?"

"It's *housefun* when I've got a helper like you. The same goes for Grandpa," she added. "When you and Noah stay with us, everything's fun around here for Grandpa and me."

"Grandma...."

"Yes, dear."

"Grandma, I think Noah's more fun for Grandpa than I am..."

"You do? You'd never know it the way he talks about 'my Amy girl' this, his Amy girl that. Why, I can't imagine Noah's more fun to Grandpa than you are. He loves you both the same."

"But Grandma...sometimes I ask Grandpa things and he won't even answer me. Sometimes he acts as if he doesn't even see me, especially when Noah's around. I told Grandpa I wanted to go to the park with them today, but they left without me. It isn't the first time they've done that!"

"Amy, did Noah know you wanted to go to the park today?"

"No, just Grandpa."

"And what did Grandpa say when you told him you wanted to go to the park?"

"He didn't say anything. He didn't seem to care."

"Oh Amy, I think I know why your grandfather seems to pay more attention to Noah. It's not because he doesn't love you, dear, that could never be. It's because he doesn't hear you. That's the trouble, and he may not see you so well, either!"

"He doesn't seem to have any trouble hearing or seeing Noah."

"No one does! Noah is so loud and jumpy, who could miss him? But you have a soft voice like mine. Your grandfather simply doesn't hear you, Amy, and with his cataract, he may not be seeing you, either, especially if you're off to his left side."

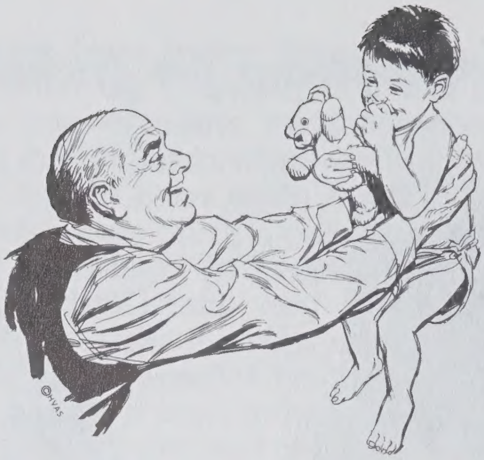
Amy was listening very carefully.

"I can tell when your Grandpa doesn't hear me, cause he doesn't answer or he'll say the very same thing I just said. Sometimes I have to repeat myself just to make sure he's heard me."

"That's when you say, 'Roy, I just told you that!' "

"Yes, that's what I say, all right, and that's what you'll have to do from now on. Amy, I think we've solved the mystery of why Grandpa doesn't pay attention to you. As they say on the TV, he's 'experiencing difficulties with the audio portion.' On our way to the park you can practise being seen and heard, just like Noah."

They looked at each other a second, started laughing, then both blurted out at the same time, "Well, maybe not *just* like Noah...."



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, how oft we forget
To think and recollect
That we have not thanked you today
For everything that comes our way
The ups and downs of daily life
The good things as well as those
of strife
Thank you for your constant love
And your loving guidance from
above
Thank you for keeping us safe day
by day
And for forgiving us when we stray
Thank you for helping us to be
worthy of your care
And the gift of saying thank you in
prayer.

Peg Ferguson

Thanksgiving for friends abroad . . .

Happy recipients of knitted materials from the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A Journey to Remember

by Nancy Howard

In September 1965 my family and I first went to India as missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, serving in the Bhil Field until 1971. My two youngest children, Fiona and Sean, were both born there during that time. Twenty three years have passed since then, but during the months of October and November 1994 Sean and I had the opportunity to visit that great land again.

I had never seriously thought that I would ever return, but when Sean began to reveal an interest in visiting his birthplace, my own interest and enthusiasm was rekindled. Also the friendship and encouragement of Cathy and Clarence McMullen helped to make my decision easier.

With much eagerness and anticipation, and some trepidation, we embarked on this journey—in many ways a journey back in time.

There were several reasons for this pilgrimage: to renew friendships, to visit places in which we had lived and worked, to travel, to be adventuresome, to do something I never thought I would do again, and finally, to complete a chapter in my life which had not been completely closed in 1971, as plans to return to India the following year did not materialize.

We spent time as typical tourists—seeing the sights. Visits to the Taj Mahal in Agra and The Golden Temple in Amritzar (the most holy Sikh shrine) were indeed highlights not to be missed.

Friends in New Delhi, both Indian and ex-patriate Canadians, extended such warm welcomes after so many years that it was especially heart-warming.

It was a real joy to have Cathy McMullen's company for ten days. Cathy went to the Bhil Field as a missionary nurse along with Sue (Sarjeant) Stevens in 1963. She had never been back since being married there over 25 years ago, and so was happy to make this trip along with Sean and me. The three of us spent many hours travelling together, on trains, buses and in jeeps. Travel in India (either by road or rail) has to be experienced to be believed!

The Bhils are a people who are traditionally animists, living in a very rural part of the hot plains of Central India. In 1897, Dr. John and Mrs. Buchanan, pioneer missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, started to work among the Bhils, hence the name Bhil Field is used to identify the area where our P.C.C. missionaries have been located. As a result of Christian witness through these intervening years, many Bhil families became Christians and to this day carry on the spreading of the gospel. It was to this rural Indian setting that Cathy, Sean and I travelled together.

Thirty years ago, the western missionary was still very much involved in all aspects of the work e.g. hospitals, schools and evangelism. Now the scene is quite different with the churches being part of the Church of North India, and the local medical, educational and evangelistic outreach almost completely in the capable hands of Indian Christians. Most of the Canadian Presbyterian missionaries are gone, except for Pauline Brown and Doreen Morrison in Jobat, and Diana Wadsworth in Jhansi. These women have given their entire working lives to India, and although all are near retirement now, their work and witness, like many before them, will be remembered for years to come.

Our stay in the Bhil area was most interesting and we received a warm welcome from Indian friends who remembered us. Transportation was laid on for us to visit all the "mission stations", to see the houses in which we had once lived, and to meet again those people who were very much a part of our lives many years ago. The fellowship within the churches is still very much alive; schools in Amkhut, Jobat and Mendha are led by enthusiastic Christian teachers, while outreach among the women continues to be a vital part of the ministry.

The medical work at Jobat Christian Hospital is still going strong under the godly guidance of Dr. Deborah Tezlo, herself a Bhil. She has many responsibilities, both at the hospital and small village dispensaries as well as many administrative duties. I would encourage you to remember her especially in prayer as she seeks to bring honour and glory to God's work in Jobat.

When our friend Margaret Vanderzweerde learned that I was going to be in the Bhil Field, she asked if I would be willing to take a duffel bag filled with warm clothing for needy children in Jobat and Mendha. I was happy to do this. Many of the ladies within the Presbyterian Church have contributed handmade scarves, hats and sweaters for such distribution, and I want to assure you all of how happily these were received.

We went to Mendha one morning to find the little school there in session, with all the small children sitting with their teacher on the floor of the veranda of the church. Every one of these children received a scarf and hat, and as you can see from the photos, they were proud to show them off for the camera. In Jobat also, the children who come every day to the 'milk centre' were given warm clothing for the cold winter nights that were surely coming in January and February. Most of these little ones were too young or too shy to say "thank you", but on their behalf I thank all of you, who through the years have knitted, crocheted, and sent clothing to faraway places. If you could only see these little people for yourselves, you would know how valuable and rewarding all your hard work has been.

Four days was all the time that we had set aside to spend in the Bhil area, but we wished we had stayed longer. Time restraints however are always present and we had to move on as distances are great and travel extremely time consuming and tiring.

Diana Wadsworth greeted us in Jhansi, her field of service being at the Helen McDonald School. This school is of the highest calibre with instruction both in Hindi and English. Students come from many different socio-economic backgrounds with a large percentage being Hindus. Assemblies held each day provide the opportunity for Christian education and teaching, with many of the students pursuing higher education and assuming positions of leadership both in their communities and churches.

Another long day of train travel brought us to the busy city of Batala in the Punjab, where the McMullens have lived and worked for over 20 years. This was a wonderful opportunity to see at first hand their place of service, both at Baring Christian College and in the community there.

Landour, Mussoorie has always had a special place in my heart. A traditional "hill station", it is situated in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains, about 7000 feet above sea level. On clear days snow capped peaks are visible in the distance, with breathtaking views on all sides. The community is virtually unchanged even after all these years and it gave me a great deal of pleasure to be able to show Sean the place of his birth. We trekked many miles over the hillside (you either go up or down!), enjoying the clean fresh air and marvelling at the beauty of God's creation all around us.

As a newly qualified teacher, Sean wanted to see as many schools as he could. He was able to visit rural and urban schools primarily to observe, but his guitar proved to be a fascination to all and he ended up leading singing and teaching songs to many kids. At Woodstock School in Mussoorie, where his two older brothers began their schooling, he had a great opportunity to spend three weeks in a Grade 5 class, teaching science and assisting with tutoring and in the library.

The opportunity that I had to meet up again with friends and co-workers was a special blessing for me. I would love to go back and spend more time, not just as a visitor and tourist, but perhaps in a more "helping" role. In the meantime however, I know that my reasons for making this journey with Sean have been more than fulfilled. I not only travelled, visited old haunts and old friends, made the return I was unable to make years ago, but also renewed my acquaintance with and interest in the needs of the vast, mysterious land of contrasts, which is India.

I renewed my acquaintance with the vast, mysterious land of contrasts which is India.

Mission Celebration
Sponsored by Youth In Mission

November 4-5, 1995
Trinity Presbyterian Church,
Toronto

for people of all ages interested in celebrating and getting involved in mission

To register, contact:

Youth In Mission
94 Calvin Chambers Road
Thornhill, ON L4J 1R7
Phone/Fax (905) 889-1844

Pneumonia Vests to Ethiopia and Malawi

Six persons from Grace Church, Orleans, Ontario travelled to Ethiopia assisted by an exposure grant from Presbyterian World Service and Development. (See June/July 1995 Glad Tidings, page 18 for more information on this program.) They reported being deeply encouraged in their walk as Christians through experiencing another culture, another climate and another set of values.

"It was good to have something to bring from our home denomination," they said. "We were able to personally deliver some of the pneumonia prevention vests to the wife of a worker at Kariftu. She had premature twin daughters the week that we arrived."

The Nursing Administrator at Mulanje Mission Hospital in Mulanje, Malawi sent a letter of thanks to the Presbyterian Church Offices for pneumonia vests received.

Mrs. M. K. Mabooza says, "They have arrived in good time as our weather now is cold [10 June 1995]. So the babies will benefit from these warm pneumonia vests."

Marjorie Ross, Secretary for International Ministries, Life and Mission Agency, reports that the number of pneumonia vests sent to Church offices from people across the country has been overwhelming and says that the vests are travelling far and wide! "We still have some here in the office, " Marjorie says, "but most have now gone overseas. I am encouraging people to knit baby afghans, mufflers and children's toques [instead of vests]. They would be appreciated in a number of places." More information will be available in the fall. It is suggested that people who still have knitted vests seek local sources for their use.

Burning Bush

When Moses saw the burning bush
And heard the voice of God,
And worshipped with unsandelled feet
Upon that quiet sod

He might have seen a maple tree
Upon a quiet hill
An autumn maple, all aflame,
A burning miracle.

W. G. Dovey

Thanksgiving for gifts of resources . . .

Thanks to WMS Christian Literature Fund

In writing to Helen Young who convenes the Christian Literature committee for the WMS, Eleanor Crabtree expressed her thanks for a $500 grant. She says:

"Let me share with you a couple of stories of how a small amount of the money has been used. I had a request left at the IVCF Book Table for a Bible in Bulgarian. I was able to get one from the local Bible Society, and presented this to the young woman from Romania. She was so delighted to get a Bible in her mother tongue, in fact she could hardly believe that I had been able to find one. She is here in Canada with her husband, and is doing a Master's Degree in German at Carleton University. I have met with her twice, and have told her about a good Orthodox Church in Ottawa, as that is her background.

"... I have given Good News Bibles in a very useful edition, also procured from the Bible Society, to a Taiwanese couple who are new Christians, and a young Chinese woman who just arrived in Canada in January. The latter told me that her grandmother was a Christian. She has not yet become Christian, but is very interested, and has lots of questions about Jesus, and Christianity. I have also given her a red covered Chinese Bible in the simplified script. Some of the money has been used to purchase videos on Biblical themes, and we use these with students.

"Please convey to the members of the Women's Missionary Society my deep appreciation for your support in this way."

Eleanor (Knott) is a staff worker with the International Student Ministry of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

"I"-Witness

Over the years, since I was baptized at age 11, I have attended many Communion services. A few years ago I was participating in the Lord's Supper in my home church when I had an unusual experience.

The bread was eaten and the small glass of wine followed. I drank the wine and immediately I was aware of a strange happening. There was a burning sensation in my stomach, the very centre of my being, it seemed. This feeling radiated over my entire body, to the tips of my fingers and tips of my toes. I felt enveloped in this sensation for a short time, then it passed. Never before had this happened, nor since.

Then the thought came to me. This is how Jesus works in us by His Holy Spirit. He lives at the centre of our being and reaches out from there to fill every part of our lives. As my whole body was involved, so the Holy Spirit is involved in every aspect of life, physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

"The life is in the blood".* The blood of Jesus imparts His very own life to us and cleanses from all sin. We have been made members of His body, one with Him.

Ordinary bread eaten becomes assimilated by the physical body, nourishing and strengthening it. As we follow Him daily, Jesus, the Living Bread, nourishes and strengthens our soul.

Only a loving Saviour could have thought of such a simple yet profound way for us to remember who He is, and whose we are.

E. Jean Abrams,
Cobourg, ON

**Deuteronomy 12:23*

Thanksgiving for work . . .

Wash Day

Another Monday morning
with its mountains of laundry all around me ...
husband's shirts to be bleached
children's jeans to be tumbled dry.
Where do I begin?
Wash me, Lord
in the detergent of Your Word.
Rotate and cleanse me of my dirt.
Then
hang me out to soak up sunrays
and be a reflection
of Your clean fresh holiness.

Joan Bond

FIRE IN THE ROSE

Fire in the Rose is for congregations that want to build healthier families and communities.

Fire in the Rose is a journey of faith grounded in Biblical stories which provide strength to explore abuse. It is a sacred journey toward healing and caring for one another.

Through *Fire in the Rose,* your congregation will explore the nature and consequences of abuse; you will reflect on your own attitudes, feelings and experiences; examine the roots of abuse and violence, identify tools and skills for new ways of living together, and work with others to create and strengthen ministries of healing and prevention.

Fire in the Rose is designed to be integrated into the ongoing life of your congregation. In nine easy-to-use booklets, *Fire in the Rose* provides a variety of resources for clergy, adults and children, individuals, groups and the congregation as a whole.

Developed by The Church Council on Justice and Corrections, with participation in a pilot project from various denominations including the Presbyterian Church.

The *Fire in the Rose* program costs $79.00 and is being sold on a cost recovery basis.

Also available in French.

For more information or to obtain *Fire in the Rose*, contact:
The Church Council on Justice and Corrections
507 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1Z5
Tel: (613) 563-1688
Fax: (613) 237-6129

Thanksgiving for Women of Faith

A Service of Worship

by Tamiko Corbett

Note: Before you begin this service, note the bracketed instructions in the *Litany of Thanksgiving* and be prepared to:
***name WMS workers and others in mission of special importance to your group.**
****invite each member to name one or two women who have been 'mothers' and 'sisters' in the faith.**

Leader: In September of this year, women from all over the world gathered in Beijing, China for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. We were represented by Joan Sampson, Past President of the WMS, who with others from the Presbyterian Church in Canada participated in the NGO (Non Governmental Organisation) Forum to discuss issues to improve the lives of women and children throughout the world.

Let us take this thanksgiving season to thank God for the women of faith throughout the ages.

Call to Worship: O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to God
with songs of praise![1]

Hymn: #571 *Book of Praise* - We praise Thee, O God - (You may wish to substitute 'forbears' for 'fathers' in stanza 2, or use the version in *Songs for a Gospel People* #59.)

Leader: Although we do not hear many sermons about them, there were many women of faith in Biblical times. Let us hear of some who lived at the time of Moses' birth.

Reading: Exodus 1:15-2:4

Leader: It is interesting to note that the midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, are named. However, most of us do not know that Moses' mother even had a name since it is not mentioned until Exodus 6, verse 20. Such was the lot of women in patriarchal times.

Litany of Thanksgiving:

Leader: Let us give thanks for Biblical women like Shiphrah, Puah, Moses' mother, Jochebed, his sister, Miriam, and others whose acts of faith are recorded, and also for countless other unnamed women, like the widow who ministered to Elijah.[2]

Response: We praise and thank you, O God.

Leader: For those who walked and talked with Jesus, women whose names are familiar to us like Mary and Martha, and many others who are unnamed:

the Samaritan woman at the well, the widow who offered her last two coins, and the women who were not counted with the men when Jesus fed the four thousand.[3]

Response: We praise and thank you, O God.

Leader: For those who ministered in the early church: Phoebe, Lydia, Priscilla, and many others like them who served along with men like Paul and Silas.

Response: We praise and thank you, O God.

Leader: Let us also give thanks for women who modelled faithfulness in more recent history and for those who continue to be our models today.
For founders of the Women's Missionary Society, and for those who have been faithful in mission and witness in Canada and overseas. (Name those who are of special importance to your local group.)*

Response: We praise and thank you, O God.

Leader: For those who open their hearts and homes to the strangers and newcomers in our communities; for mothers, caregivers, teachers, and leaders who provide love and guidance for the young in these troubled times; for women who carry heavy responsibilities of both home and the workplace; for those who hold responsible positions in education, medicine, industry, government, the justice system, and other areas where difficult decisions have to be made,

Response: We praise and thank you, O God.

Leader: For courageous women like the thousands who gathered for the UN Conference in Beijing, working for the good of others against tremendous forces: persecution, torture, war, and political upheavals; for women committed to end poverty, racism, violence against children and women; for those attempting to provide leadership and guidance in cultures blind to their gifts and talents,

Response: We praise and thank you, O God.

Leader: For women who have been 'mothers' and 'sisters' in the faith to us (have each member name one or two)**,

Response: We praise and thank you, O God.

Offering

Leader: Let us present our offering as a token of our commitment to follow in the footsteps of these women of faith.

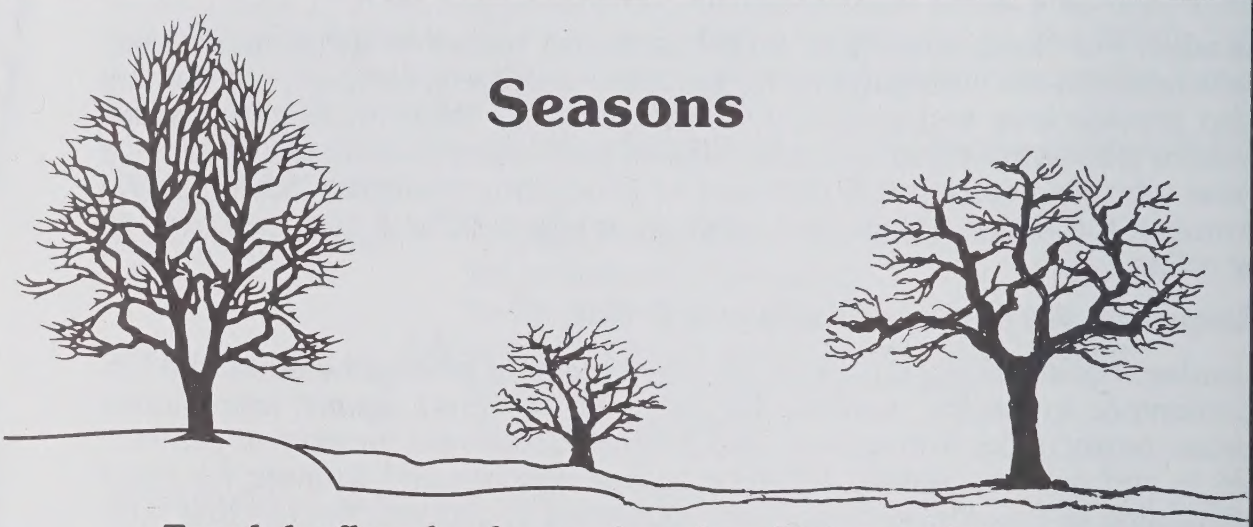
Leader: Living in a time of rapid change and uncertainty, many of us may be fearful and have doubts about the future. Let us remember the countless women who have gone before us, and the unnumbered who surround us still in our own time. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us:
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.[4]

Prayer: O God we thank you for your faithfulness to women in the past. We remember the examples of sisters who have gone before us and praise you for the models of faith and courage we see today in our churches, in the community, and throughout the world. Give us eyes to see the new opportunities of service around us; grant us courage to step forward
to stand up,
speak up,
and be counted!
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Hymn: #570 *Book of Praise* OR #58 *Songs for a Gospel People* - For the fruits of God's creation

[1] Psalm 95:1,2. [2] 1 Kings 17:8-16. [3] Matthew 15:38. [4] Hebrews 12:1,2 NRSV

Seasons



Treed, leafless landscape laundered winter white
As season's grip brings mother earth to rest
Soon springtime's syrup flows through maple's veins—
Ripe earth gives birth regenerating life
Migration's flock in song return to nest
With birthing berthing mid-summer heat now wanes
As summer time awaits coloured harvest
Of reds, of golds unfold a gourmet palette
Earth's wardrobe varied seasonly, yearly
Least we forget our winters follow fall
Environment abused takes toll in all
Seasons of Canada our Home Sweet Home
Caretakers We—Amen.

Margaret Gourley

CELEBRATING YOUTH :and Children!

Let the Music Lead – Soaring to New Heights

The sweet haunting notes of the song *Love Heals* hang in the absolute silence of the sanctuary, a silence as profound as the thunderous applause that had followed the singing of *There's a Spirit in the Air* a few moments before. Over 200 hundred people involved with CGIT gathered on a Sunday evening, clapping hands, dancing, embracing, singing and having our hearts and our spirits lifted to new heights. The end of a weekend event with Jim and Jean Strathdee, held at Camp Arnes, 75 miles north on the frozen shores of Lake Winnipeg.

Friday evening – cold and snowy. Out of chaos eventually comes order! We are soon warmed up with the fun and laughter of Teri's *Get Acquainted* games, followed by our first time of singing with Jean and Jim. Wow! we can't wait for tomorrow! Quiet time with Blake [Carter] in closing worship: "It is not by accident that we are gathered together, God meant that we should be here."

Saturday, clear and crisp, running from chalet to dining hall to Wigwam (our meeting place) to dining hall – boots and coats were taken off and put back on, how many times? What wonderful creative worship – Blake's storytelling, Barbara's dance, and music and singing to put us on course for the day. Workshops *Learning to Listen* with Dawn and Carole, and *What it means to be a CGIT Leader* with Lesley, kept us moving – physically, mentally and spiritually.

An evening of music and then an optional hayride. Camp songs in the frosty air – frozen bales of hay and warm bodies make for wet pants! After closing worship, Les and I walk slowly from the Wigwam to our cottage – bright light streams across the banks of snow from the pool where Liz is lifeguarding our late-night swimmers. A million stars overhead in the inky blackness and a huge orange moon hanging over the lake. It is quiet – the peace of God is with us.

Sunday morning – overcast – a whiteout on the lake. The banners in the wigwam now read *Let the Music Soar* and *Leading to New Heights*. Will we ever tire of music? Worship, giving thanks, passing the peace – saying "Thank you" and "Goodbye" then back through the blowing snow to Winnipeg, playing Strathdee tapes in the car. Can't wait until the concert tonight! What was it Les had said: "I have never worshipped so much in such a short time as I did with the Strathdees." And one group had described a true worship experience as *soul-shining*. God meant that we should be there.

Pat Finlayson, member Manitoba North Western Ontario CGIT Board.

Dear Friends

Arlene Onuoha,
Box 2635, Aba
Abia State, Nigeria
April 1995

Greetings from a hot and humid Nigeria! These are the days of planting our little farms. We have two little strips and have planted some yam, corn, various types of green leaves (used for soups) and cassava. Agwu, Urey and Rebecca even went to help their Aunt and Uncle plant the farm one Saturday. It was tiring work. Agwu helped make a yam heap, Urey carried pieces of seed yam and Rebecca fell asleep watching the hard work.

This is the season for mangoes and avocado pears, both of which we have been enjoying lately. In a few weeks the early corn will begin to appear then the rage in roadside food will be roasted corn and coconut or corn with another kind of pear. Most of the staple foods, however, are most costly at this time of year – between the planting and harvest.

We spent three and a half months in Canada last year. The time sped by like a few short weeks. The kids all went to Northlea school.... They often speak of their friends and teachers from Toronto.

I also studied while in Canada. I took three courses at Knox College and thoroughly enjoyed everything I learned and studied.

We also did some deputation, speaking almost every weekend and a few weekdays. Each week was a wonderful experience as we worshipped in different churches, met different people and made some wonderful friends.

In spite of all these activities we were able to visit a few places of interest like the zoo, Niagara Falls, and a few parks around Toronto.

We spent Christmas in Ottawa with my family. It was wonderful! All of us were there – my mother, all my sisters, brothers, their husbands and wives and children. Agwu, Urey and Rebecca were excited at meeting twenty-some cousins and celebrating Christmas a different way than they remembered.

The political situation in the country is still not stable. The economy continues to get worse. In January the Government seized a whole shipload of containers at Calabar Port for reasons best known to them. There are many rumors but I'm not sure of the facts. This action has greatly affected Aba (where we live) whose economy depends a lot on the imported goods from overseas. For a long time while after that no ship came in but eventually they began to come to another port in Eastern Nigeria.

The Children's Service at St. Paul's Church, in Ogbor Hill is going well. Things really seem to be coming together. We have a very promising choir, a group of children who play local instruments and a drama group. The number of children is increasing. Our average attendance is probably around 500 – some Sundays as many as 690 children.

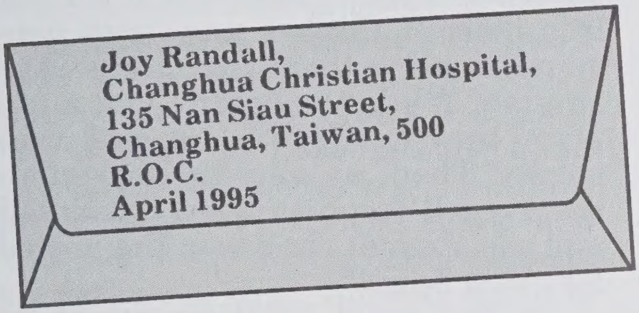
We have our programme for the year, a particularly flexible Order of Service and are continuing our Wednesday planning meetings and Bible Studies. A couple of weeks ago David and I conducted a Saturday Worship for the leaders.

We are hoping eventually to get some choir gowns, more drama costumes, pictures and posters for the walls, and if possible a video projector.

We have begun to furnish our Diaconate Resource Center and have ordered some books. Those have not yet arrived.

We are very thankful to all who have contributed anything (including prayers) towards these projects.

In Christ's service,
Arlene



Joy Randall,
Changhua Christian Hospital,
135 Nan Siau Street,
Changhua, Taiwan, 500
R.O.C.
April 1995

Our hospital is facing many new challenges and changes these few months as the new national insurance system is being instituted. The greatest change is in Out Patients as that is where the doctors see them and the new rule is that patients have to be introduced by a smaller clinic first. People have to pay part of their payment, etc. thus we have a lot of changes in recording and computer codes for fees. We will know better in a few months to a year how this will really affect our hospital, its services, social and community outreach. So we need your special prayers. Our Community Health Department has many plans for future both in Health Promotion, Education, and Home Care so we continue to work thru these plans and challenges. A new supervisor is assigned to Community Health, Hospice, and Chronic Care. Over the next few months we hope to orientate her to them by July so she will be responsible before I leave on furlough in mid August.

Our Nursing Department has a shortage of nurses until the new graduates can come on staff. We visit the various Nursing Schools to first introduce our hospital, then the end of May we have exams and interview for four days. Our first group orientation is July. Many like to take their license exam first before coming on duty. But we have to persuade some to come as soon as possible because of our shortage. Pray we will find some good nurses in the next few months. Pray that more Christians will apply as there have only been a few in recent years.

We also celebrate Nurse's Day again May 12th and this year we have two nurses who have served our hospital for 30 years: Fanny Hwang who visited British Columbia and Alberta with me a few years ago and is OR Supervisor and Miss Yeh who is one of our older graduates but has worked in our medical ward earlier and in the OPD and Endoscopic Room these later years.

Our Church also celebrates its 36th Anniversary this year. On Mother's Day they are planning a special celebration for couples married over 35 years. There are already 18 couples who have registered. After the special service the elders, deacons and members of the couple's family are going out to dinner.

Our hospital is already starting to have special events to celebrate our 100th Anniversary on November 29, 1996. We have various Health Promotion, Social Services and Evangelism and Outreach emphasis in the various events and activities. Our Choir will be preparing to sing the Messiah – we hope in Taiwanese for December 1996. We are also writing our history, thus I have been working on the missionaries' dates, contributions, etc.

Love,
Joy M. Randall

Paula Ryan,
c/o Hsinchu Bible College,
No. 56, Kao-feng Road,
Hsinchu, 30035, Taiwan,
R.O.C.

The following news has been extracted from Paula's *Taiwan Tribune*, April-June 1995.

- The weather continues to improve, and the temperature continues to escalate! This afternoon my thermometer read 92F in the shade! I realize I've been here "too long" however, as it no longer seems unbearable! After three months of rain, I am revelling in the heat and sunshine!

- I was honoured recently to be invited to preach a sermon at a Tayal church in the mountains near the town of Tahsi. The Tayal people are one of the aboriginal tribes of Taiwan. Their language is beautiful and I have come to know about their language and music through some of our students who are Tayal and Rev. John Wu, a faculty member here at the college.

John was actually the person who took me to the church and translated my sermon into Tayal. I received such a warm welcome from the congregation that I felt instantly at home. And I delighted in their amazing singing. ...they truly are blessed with incredible voices. Their singing leaves me spellbound as often they sing in eight-part harmony. This particular morning the youth choir also wore their traditional tribal costumes....

- On April 26, a song competition was held at the chapel at our Lay Training Centre – open to students within the college and church choirs from Hsinchu, Taoyuan, and Miaoli Counties. The English department students...chose "Heal the World". We practiced the song every night for weeks as they learned the various parts, worked on pronunciation and then attempted to memorize the entire song. We had many a long, frustrating practice and, at times, I could see they were so sick of the song I wondered how we would ever sing it with feeling on competition night.

The night of the competition they were all nervous, and as always seemed to happen with us in the Nova Scotia Tattoo, somehow it all fell into place. I think I was more nervous directing them than they were singing! While they didn't win a top prize, they were given a consolation trophy. Then, we were thrilled when the overall trophies were presented and the students had won the award for "Best Spirit".

- The most exciting event in June was the celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival. The festival commemorates the death of Chu-Yuan, a Chinese poet who died 2,500 years ago. Chu-Yuan apparently tried to give advice to the Emperor who would not listen to him. In protest of the Emperor's corruption and misrule, the poet drowned himself in the river. The local people heard about it and went to the river to drop dzungdzes (dumplings of sticky rice wrapped in bamboo leaves) to feed the fish so they wouldn't eat Chu-Yuan's body. They also beat drums to scare the fish away. Eventually it became a tradition of races using the colourful dragon boats.

- Can you imagine being fined for speaking your native language in school? Through discussions and time shared with the students this past year I have learned many things about the education system in Taiwan. One of the most offensive things I learned was that students were fined for speaking Taiwanese in high school instead of the government imposed Mandarin (although apparently this no longer happens). Education in Taiwan, as in many countries, is controlled by the government.

- Leaving all my Taiwanese friends and the Bible College behind will not be easy. I don't know if I will ever see some of these friends again and it leaves my heart heavy. Fortunately, I had some very special times with several students and close friends during June. It was really a blessing to be able to see some of them individually and spend time with them – although the goodbyes were still difficult. I have learned not to say goodbye in English to them as it sounds too final. "Goodbye" in Mandarin is "dzaijian" which means "I'll see you again" and it is the prayer of my heart as I say my farewells that, indeed, one day we will see each other again.

With love and prayers,
Paula

Award to Central American Project

Viola Duff and her co-worker Lydia Zamora in the Nursing department, Universidad Politécnia de Nicaragua were pleased recently to receive word of an award.

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada at its Council meeting June 2-4, made a grant of $2,000 from their World Day of Prayer grants towards the project Viola and Lydia submitted. The project will develop and implement a teaching module in Spanish aimed at decreasing violence against Hispanic women and children in Nicaragua and Canada.

Their hope is to help nurses recognize the symptoms of wife abuse and counsel victims. The other goal is to raise nurses' consciousness about the issue which is hardly recognized in the very "macho" Latin culture of Nicaragua.

Rainbow Home Approved

Sakai City on May 31 gave official approval for the building of "Setton no Ie" (Rainbow Home). This care home for the elderly, a project of the Korean Christian Church in Japan Women's Association, represents the fulfillment of a 40-year dream.

Construction is to begin by the end of July and be completed in the spring of 1996. It will accommodate 50 residents, and incorporate facilities for counseling and medical services, recreational activities, preparation of "meals on wheels" and interaction with members of the surrounding community.

KCCJ's General Executive has approved the Shalom Social Welfare Agency and slate of directors. Jack and Beth McIntosh are working with Korean Christians in Japan.

Birthdays

Overseas Staff

October

1 - Stewart Gillan, South Africa
1 - Dennis Single, Nigeria
13 - Bill Elliott, Mauritius
19 - Shereen Taylor, Nepal
20 - Elizabeth Crosby, Mauritius
26 - Jonathan Crosby, Mauritius
27 - Robert Assaly, Jerusalem
28 - Rachel Kent, Nepal
29 - Aicha Raeburn-Cherradi, Hong Kong

November

1 - Lorna Kent, Nepal
7 - Joe Reed, Central America
21 - Jack Geddes, Taiwan
30 - Jenan Andrea Assaly, Jerusalem

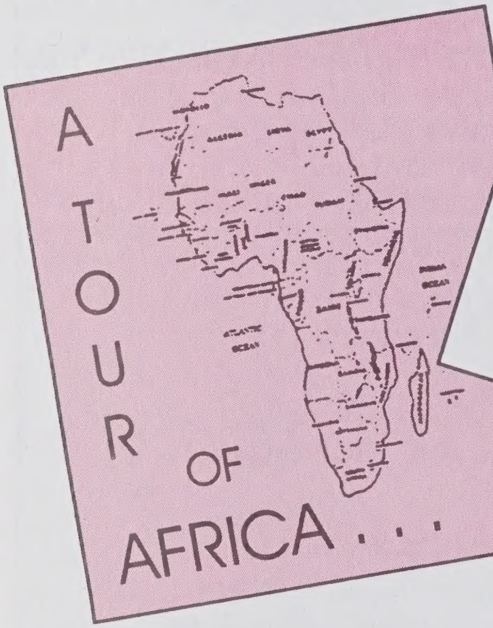
An Idea That Could Be Used For A Congregational Event/Mission Weekend/Rally, etc.

Thanks to the Presbyterian Women's Group, St. Paul's Church, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario who submitted these materials for other groups to use and adapt to their particular situation and needs.

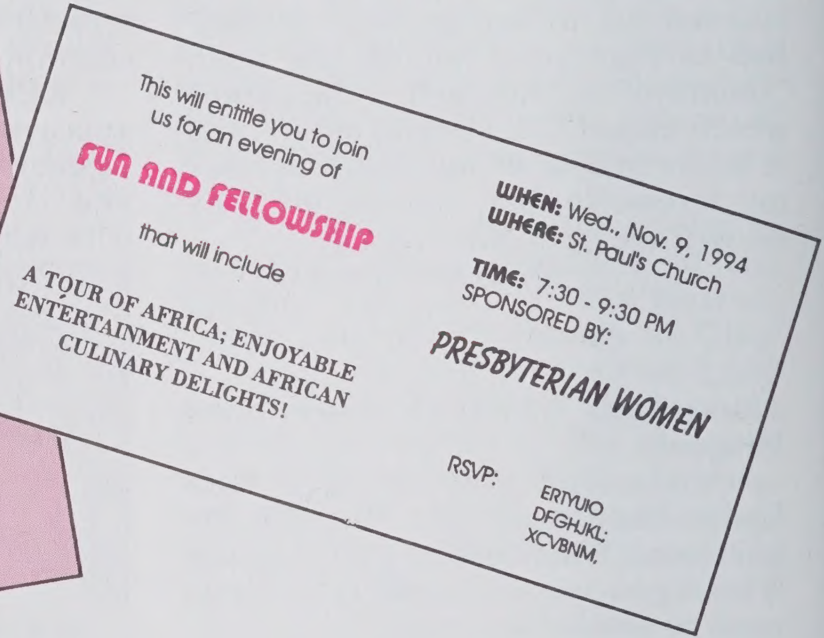
Event: An Evening of "Fun and Fellowship"

Preparation

1. Invitations in the form of a 'visa' or 'passport' were mailed. See sample invitation below. This particular event was based on Africa. Other maps or graphics could be used.



...Invitation cover



This will entitle you to join us for an evening of

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

that will include

A TOUR OF AFRICA; ENJOYABLE ENTERTAINMENT AND AFRICAN CULINARY DELIGHTS!

WHEN: Wed., Nov. 9, 1994
WHERE: St. Paul's Church
TIME: 7:30 - 9:30 PM
SPONSORED BY:

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

RSVP:
ERTYUIO
DFGHJKL:
XCVBNM,

... Inside invitation

2. Name tags made in the shape of an animal or plant typical of the area that is the focus of the event.

3. Ice Breaker: Have someone prepare the map and scramble names for "Where in the World".

4. Story: Have someone prepare the story, the puppets, the backdrop or whatever is needed.

5. Song: Arrange for learning the song(s) you will use and for the music for worship.

6. Displays: Have different people develop a display and prepare a brief talk for each place or point of interest (countries, cities, towns or institutions) in the area of focus.

7. Food and Artifacts: Arrange for the food and display.

8. Worship: The St. Paul's event happened to focus on Africa and most of the elements of the service were taken from the "Worship Resources" page 27, *Study Guide to Claiming the Promise* by L. Cecile Adams. ©1994 by Friendship Press, Inc. (See Worship* below.) There are many sources of music and prayers from different parts of the world, one of which will be the new Book of Praise when it is completed.

At the Event

Ice Breaker (As People Arrive) - "Where in the World?" consisting of a map of the focus region with numbers identifying the scrambled names of the points of interest that you will be touring.

Welcome to an evening of fun, friendship and learning.

Entertainment - A story and/or folk tale from the area of focus. The St. Paul's group says "We made faces on stick puppets for the characters. We used a narrator with the characters saying a few key lines. (This was very well received in a darkened hall with spot lights and a back drop.)"

Song - Have someone teach a song from the area of focus. If there are some familiar songs from the area, sing them too.

A Tour of .... - Visit the area of focus through displays and a talk at each of the 'stopping' places.

At half point sample foods and look at displayed artifacts from the area.

Worship Service

(You may develop your own based on your topic, etc.)

Call to Worship: The drums have sounded and called us to worship. Come, let us sing a new song to the Lord. Let us praise God in the assembly of the faithful. Be glad! Rejoice! Our Creator is present. God has poured out streams of living water. We who are thirsty have come to drink. Come now and worship the Lord our God.*

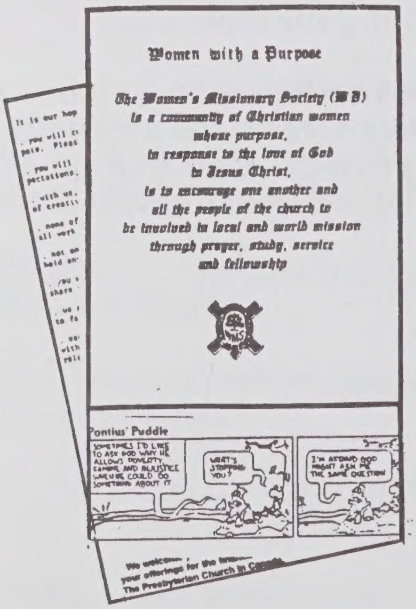
Praise (Bantu Echo Song -African)
Meditation (in this case an African poem)
An Affirmation of Faith*
Praise (Kum Ba Yah - African)
Closing Prayer Litany (in unison)

God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us:
The beginning,
The end,
The everlasting One.*

The purpose of the event was expressed in the following words of welcome on the Worship Bulletin, which also contained the WMS Purpose:

It is our hope and prayer that . . .

- You will consider yourself truly one of us, and will participate. Please don't sit on the sidelines and watch. We need you!
- You will realize that each of us brings certain expectations which we all want to help fulfill.
- With us, you will enjoy true learning experiences, and a lot of creative sharing.
- None of us will be inflated with self-importance, but we will all work together in community, to accomplish our goals.
- Not one of us will criticize another, or blame another, or hold any petty, negative thoughts.
- You will enjoy a special freedom of spirit with us, and will share your talents, ideas, and gifts in a celebratory way.
- We as a group will not be afraid to risk, to try, to succeed, to fail, and then to try again.
- Each one of us will discover that, because of our association with this group, we have come closer to a loving, meaningful relationship with our Lord.



Women with a Purpose

The Women's Missionary Society (WD)
is a community of Christian women
whose purpose,
in response to the love of God
in Jesus Christ,
is to encourage one another and
all the people of the church to
be involved in local and world mission
through prayer, study, service
and fellowship

Pontius' Puddle
SOMETIMES I'D LIKE TO ASK GOD WHY HE ALLOWS POVERTY, FAMINE AND INJUSTICE WHEN HE COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT
WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?
I'M AFRAID GOD MIGHT ASK ME THE SAME QUESTION

... *Worship bulletin*

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THE PERFECTION OF THE MORNING *by Sharon Butala. Published by Harper Collins Paperback. Price $15.00.*

This is a true story of a part of the life and spiritual growth of the author. Sharon Butala, at 36, left family, friends and a promising teaching career to marry a cattle rancher in the Cypress Hills region of Southwestern Saskatchewan.

After the first enchantment with a new and challenging way of life wore off, Mrs. Butala experienced a deepening feeling of isolation and loneliness.

At first, she tried to regain an earlier skill in pencil drawing; this failed.

With lots of spare time, she decided to keep a daily journal. At the same time, she began to spend hours walking through the endless, unbroken prairie which was her new home.

Aware of her inadequate knowledge of the history and ecology of the region, she sought out all available published information. Her findings led to a truly comprehensive list of sources which are listed at the end of the book. She then began to record certain mystical experiences which took place while she was walking.

Eventually, though with little expectation of success, she came to the decision that her future might be in becoming a writer. At first she tried short stories, followed by a trilogy of novels, all of which received favourable comment in literary circles.

Finally, in 1993, without her intending it to become autobiographical, *Perfection of the Morning* just seemed to come together spontaneously. The stages she passed through on her way to a complete rapport with her natural surroundings were often painful and sometimes frightening. At the same time, there were moments of intense joy.

Sharon Butala learned to achieve an inner stillness, to stop her dialogue with herself, to empty her mind and "listen", to surrender to a powerful force which seemed to encircle her like an invisible presence.

Among other spiritual experiences, she reached a conviction that many of the secrets of nature were well known to the aboriginal people who had lived in this part of Saskatchewan long before the coming of white settlers. They can teach us so much about our stewardship of the land, about the native prairie plants and animals.

This is an eloquent and inspiring book. It leaves one with the feeling that the story is incomplete, that the author will continue to grow and learn, and that one day she will tell us more.

Perfection of the Morning is available in most bookstores. It has been on the paperback best-seller list for over a year.

Jean Stevens

STUDY RESOURCES

Planning for 1995-96? Here are some resources you might consider:

HORIZON BIBLE STUDY GUIDES: Each study guide contains outlines from nine sessions and suggestions for leaders.

G5671 - GLIMPSES OF HOME. Biblical Images of the Realm of God *by Eugenia Gamble* $6.00

G5460 - WHO IS THE CHRIST? As answered in the Epistles *by R. David Kaylor* $6.00

G5042 - PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE FOR A FAITHFUL JOURNEY *by Elizabeth Caldwell and Earle Hilgert* $4.50

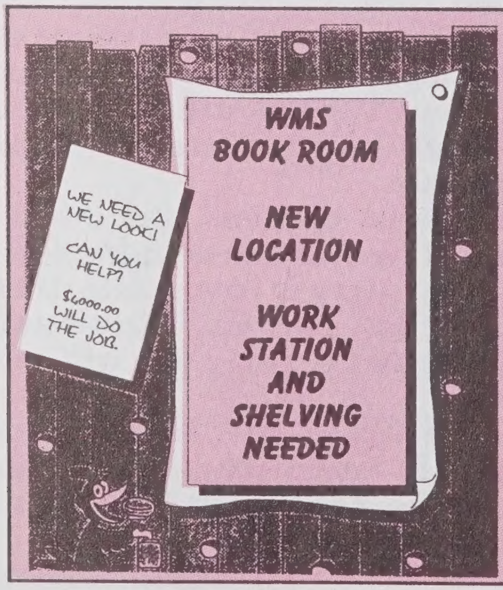
Other:
G5626 - GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR BIBLE *by Gary L. Ball-Kilbourne.* Eight sessions designed for adults/youth to survey the Bible. Abingdon Press $5.20

G5625 - LEADER'S GUIDE - GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR BIBLE *by Gary L. Ball-Kilbourne.* Complete plans for eight study sessions with many activities from which to choose. Abingdon Press $6.30

G5169 - ONE ANOTHERING, Biblical Building Blocks for Small Groups *by Richard C. Meyer.* Contains 11 sessions, each with preparatory readings and group exercises based on the "one another" themes in Scripture (e.g. "bear one another's burdens"). Luramedia **$16.95**

G5630 - CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, BIBLICAL WOMEN, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND US *by Joyce Hollyday.* Fifty reflections on women in scripture with questions for individual or group reflection. Westminster John Knox Press **$18.45**

G3428 - THIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OURS *by John Congram*, editor of the Presbyterian Record. An informative and interesting look at The Presbyterian Church in Canada. A five-session study guide is included. Wood Lake Books $16.95



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- **We do not want to divert funds in any way from the General Fund.**
- **This is a one-time request for assistance so that the ministry of the Book Room may be enhanced.**
- **An 8½"x14" flyer as illustrated is available on request from the Book Room.**
- **Any contributions should be sent, marked "special gift for the Book Room" to Jeanette Whynotte, Assistant to the Treasurer.**

Voices from the Past...

The extracts below illustrate the ongoing interest and concern of the WMS, and the Glad Tidings, in ministry with native people.

You read about the award-winning article, *A Letter to the Presbyterian Church in Canada* in the Glad Tidings written by a native woman (Glad Tidings, October 1994). Now read her response following the extracts. Then make sure you order the resource advertised *The Presbyterian Church in Canada Confesses to Aboriginal Peoples*. Find out where the church stands today.

January 1932 - Glad Tidings

The Soul of the Indian

Extracts from an address given at an Annual Meeting
of the Home Mission Council in New York.
Bishop Hugh L. Burleson, of South Dakota

Most of us realize, at times, how prone we are to judge other people by our own background and our own framework. I believe therein lies the failure of a good deal of our missionary work. We are condescending to people; we are passing them something from a superior height; we who know so much, and are so much, and have so much, are handing it down to somebody less fortunate. All that may be true, but the trouble is that we want to hand down not only the facts, but our interpretation of the facts. We want people not only to take Christianity, but to take the same brand, color, kind and complexion that we have ourselves discovered; and if they fail, we feel there must be something wrong with them. We have tried by governmental processes to make just a fair average white man out of the Indian. We have not succeeded, I am glad to say, and I hope we never shall, because to try to make a white man out of an Indian is to spoil a perfectly good Indian without making a very satisfactory white man.

...the Indian wants to lead, and we have not been quick enough in giving him leadership. That, perhaps, is one of our common failures in missionary policy among foreign people. For the Indian problem is a foreign problem, and labor in the Dakotas is a good preparation for work in China or Japan. We have hesitated to give responsibility. We have felt that the white man must hold things in his own hands. We have not been willing to trust God with the souls of other people. We have wanted to keep a little hold on them ourselves. We were not quite confident that the riches of the Gospel could be trusted with these people unless we were nearby to help them understand. Yet they will get a different message from ours. God never speaks in the same terms to two human souls, nor to two different races. We must not be afraid to develop their sense of leadership.

I contend that in the soul of the Indian are deep principles of character, tremendous possibilities of life and service that very few of us understand because we have approached life from a different angle.

March 1932 - Glad Tidings

The Indian, The Church and The Government

Extracts from an address to the Home Missions Council.
Mrs. D. T. L. McKerroll

In the early days education of even white children received very little attention, in fact the first school in Upper Canada, 1784, was for Mohawk Indians settled on the Bay of Quinte and the first church to be erected in the province, 1785, was for the Six Nations Indians near Brantford.

To quote from Government Indian Report, 1930, page 15. "The first Indian Residential School to complete 100 years of continuous service is the Anglican Mohawk Institute at Brantford, Ontario. In 1815 a school and church were arranged for at Mohawk Village by Chief Joseph Brant. In 1824, a residential school was started with 21 pupils. In 1830 manual training was added.

The development of the educational system has been a most interesting part of the governmental and church relationships. In the beginning, for about 200 years, no grants were given except to two small schools and the churches, or sending societies, bore the total costs. As residential schools increased, per capita grants, according to daily attendance of pupils, were given to these schools. At first the churches owned the buildings, but later it became the policy of the Government to provide buildings, handing the key to whichever church was willing to administer and take care of the pupils, the church to retain the building so long as it was used as a residential school for Indians, so that now we have schools of both these types in Canada. The amount of per capita grant depends on various factors, whether the churches own the buildings or not being one, and the type of educational work carried on in the school being another factor.

We need much follow-up work. When the pupils graduate from the schools there is far too little care to encourage them, under sometimes depressing circumstances, to continue following the ideals that they have been taught. Taking part in more enterprises in connection with the school, on the part of the boys and girls, will gradually help to develop their initiative.

The appreciation of the Indians of what has been done for them, and their loyalty to their country, was shown in the War by the large amount of patriotic contributions which were given to Red Cross, and by the fact that nearly 5,000 young men went overseas. The percentage of able-bodied men enlisting was even greater than among the whites. Many of them received decoration, the D.C.M., and other medals, sometimes with bars.

There is a much greater desire on the part of the parents to have their children attend the schools. A large number of the children and young people are becoming communicants of the churches. This is but one of the many results that we are seeing of these young people who have been given a chance to develop the best that is in them.

June 8, 1994—Toronto, Ontario

Three hundred Presbyterians gather at the 120th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to hear the reading of a Confession to native peoples of Canada. The confession is an apology for the Church's willing participation in the federal government's policy of assimilating First Nation people into the dominant European culture, especially through the operation of residential schools. General Assembly adopts the confession, and many are moved to tears when the Moderator, Rev. George Vais, reads it and presents it to Chief Eli Mandamin of the Shoal Lake 39 Independent First Nation.

October 8, 1994—Winnipeg, MB

Aboriginals from Manitoba gather in a traditional healing circle at The Forks, the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in downtown Winnipeg.

Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief of the Manitoba Assembly of Chiefs officially receives the confession, saying, "We are early in our journey; there will be a lot of obstacles and roadblocks along the way, but we will overcome them if we stand together as we are here today."

—The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Confesses to Aboriginal Peoples.

June 8, 1995—Kenora, Ontario

Dear June,

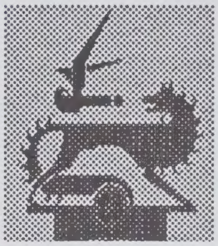
I want to inform you that I gratefully received the "Award of Merit" from the Canadian Church Press. I feel so honoured for this recognition, June! I feel God had a part in it especially the forgiveness.

I want to thank you so much for all the help you did. May God bless you for that.

With love in Jesus,
Emma Paishk

Planning adult and youth studies for the fall?

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



This study arose from the Church's confession in 1994. What led the members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to this point? What did the Confession say? How did people—both aboriginal and non-aboriginal—react? Where will the Confession lead us?

Confesses to Aboriginal Peoples

Your study group will grapple with these issues. The study will also give you an opportunity to

- share a confessional and/or worship time with your congregation
- interact with aboriginal peoples in your community
- plan for future involvement in healing practices

Writer, Kenneth Stright, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pictou, Nova Scotia, was a minister at Waywayseecappo, Manitoba, for four years. Ken tells five stories—the story of the Confession, his own story from Waywayseecappo, the story of Stewart Folster (Saskatoon), the story of Eli Mandamin, Chief of Shoal Lake 39 Independent First Nation in 1994, and the continuing story of where the confession will lead.

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- **biblical reflection**
- **group activities and questions**
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Forward In Faith

Recently I read an article by Norman Vincent Peale which began by quoting part of Matthew 17:20, "Nothing shall be impossible unto you", and went on to encourage people to realize that nothing is impossible when you have faith.

It reminded me of an incident a few years ago when I was privileged to visit an orphanage in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. To enter the dining room in mid-afternoon it was necessary to have someone go to the opposite side of the building to unlock the door where we were standing. The first child to get around the building and in to open our door was a boy of nine or ten years with no legs who did it by scuttling around on his hips, propelled by the clenched fists at the end of his arms. The director of the facility claimed he was unaware he had any disability and that he was an excellent soccer player. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you."

The WMS Council meeting which resulted in the publication, "Threatened with Resurrection", challenges members of the WMS not to limit ourselves. Results of the challenge are being noted in various areas such as the western synodical which has adopted a "Core Committee" to meet their needs.

Whether simple or complex, we maintain programs in our individual groups that contribute to our Aim and Purpose – "a community of Christian women encouraging one another and all the people of the church to be involved in local and world mission through prayer, study, service and fellowship". The variety of program approaches provides flexibility to meet local requirements.

The mission studies for the Presbyterian Church in Canada based on the church in Europe or on the United Nations, appear to be challenging and informative as well as inspirational. In place of (or combined with) these studies, some groups are using the publication, *The Face of Jesus*, while others prefer to build their own study, using the many materials available such as the set of profiles, articles from the *Glad Tidings* and from *The Presbyterian Record* or references from the myriad of books displayed on shelves of local libraries, with pertinent articles from newspapers, allowing unlimited potential.

In the introduction to Joyce Hollyday's book *Clothed with the Sun – Biblical Women, Social Justice & Us* we read "they [the women] are witnesses to faith and justice, to persistence and hope, and most of all, to resurrection".

In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see". As Norman Vincent Peale wrote, "We cannot conquer the big limitations by our own unaided strength. Faith in God will set us free.... He has freed them [people] from limitations of every kind." We are free today and free to greet tomorrow. The WMS in its more than 125 years has demonstrated that we go *forward in faith*.

In closing, members are congratulated that $398,139 has been received up to July 31, 1995. Our faith will surely enable us to achieve our objective of approximately one million dollars by the end of the year. Nothing is impossible!

Marian Weldon, Treasurer

OUR READERS Write

I was recently in the Cabinet Room of the Manitoba Legislative Building for the presentation of briefs to the Government of Manitoba by the Provincial Council of Women. Two of the half dozen presenters were Presbyterian women.

The Brief on Pornography was presented by Audrey Kruschel of Westwood Presbyterian Church. Audrey is the current President of Group Against Pornography (GAP). She succeeded the founding President, Caroline Keith *(Glad Tidings*, February ‘92, *The Presbyterian Record* July/August ‘92). The background research for this brief was extensive. The brief itself was clear, concise and very well presented.

Norma Buchan, a member of St. James Presbyterian Church, presented the Provincial Council’s Resolution on Health Concerns of Women in the Workplace. Norma is Past President and presently a Board member of the Women’s Health Research Foundation of Canada. This resolution had been submitted by the Women’s Health Research Foundation of Canada and was passed by the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba in March 1995.

Apart from the fact that the WMS Council is a federate of the National Council of Women, and the Synodical of Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario a federate of the Provincial Council, I am drawing attention to the above because I firmly believe that the future of the WMS must include involvement of this kind. The Provincial Council of Manitoba includes 25 federate members and 18 associate members. Several church denominations are among them, as well as the Salvation Army. The Resolutions Chairperson of the PCW has said: “We need to hear from church women.”

Jean G. Campbell, Secretary,
Winnipeg Presbyterial

Dear June,

I was so pleased with [the] May/June issue of *Glad Tidings* that I am writing to compliment you and the writers of the different articles. They are all excellent and I’m sure we’ll be reading some of them at our monthly meeting. I feel that members like to know WMS needs and how their money is used.

Keep up the good work!

Annie MacRae, Cornwall, ON

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

Thank you. I find it very easy to listen to the cassette and then send it back.

All the best to Glad Tidings and your work.

Edna Ellacott, Kitchener, ON

Dear Mrs. Corbett,

In response to the report "Threatened-With Resurrection", we, the undersigned members of the Lawrie Cormack Auxiliary W.M.S. (W.D.), wish to express our strong desire to retain the title *Glad Tidings* for our W.M.S. Magazine.

We also wish to endorse the suggestion of Lois Daw of Burns Presbyterian Church, Ashburn, at the Annual Meeting of Pickering Presbyterial that, if there must be a change in the name of the W.M.S., that the name "World Missionary Society" be used. In this way the initials "W.M.S." could remain the same.

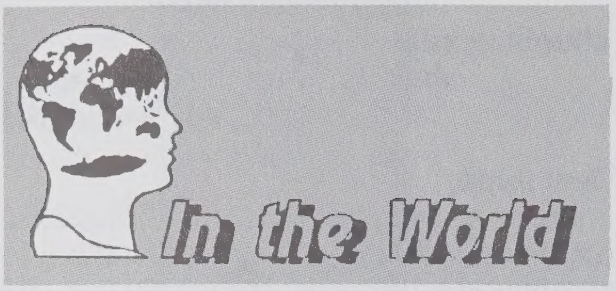
Signed by members of The Lawrie
Cormack Auxiliary W.M.S. (W.D.),
Knox, Oshawa, Ontario.

Heard in Passing . . .

The *Glad Tidings* had an important role in my call to Knox, St. Catharines. Someone on the Search Committee happened to "find" an article I wrote on Cathy Williams called "Not Just a Shell".

It made all the difference in the world!!!

Graham Kennedy



In the World

CCA TO STAY IN HONG KONG

Colombo, 13 June (ENI)—The Christian Conference of Asia, a body which groups more than 120 churches and church councils in the region from Pakistan to Aotearoa, New Zealand, is to keep its headquarters in Hong Kong after the 1997 hand-over of power in the British colony to Beijing.

CCA's general secretary, Bishop John Samuel, told the CCA's 10th general assembly that the CCA's general committee had discussed the Hong Kong issue on several occasions.

"We are aware of the uncertainties that still beset us ... In one of the general committee discussions, members expressed their conviction that it is important to register our solidarity with Hong Kong churches and the people of Hong Kong," Bishop Samuel said on 10 June to the assembly, which is being held in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

"To those who raised questions about Hong Kong's post-1997 prospects, I raised the counter-question: 'Where else?' D. T. Niles [a pioneer of the ecumenical movement in Asia] once said: 'There is no Switzerland in Asia.' He was right then and his words continue to reflect the realities of the present Asia situation."

The future of the churches in Hong Kong after 1997 has been a major subject of discussion among Christians in the British colony as the handover approaches. It has been estimated that by 1997 about 20% of Hong Kong Christians—many of whom are professional, middle-class people—will have left, mainly for the United States, Canada and Australia. However, many church organisations have expressed optimism about the future in Hong Kong.

—Edmund Doogue

PLANS CONSOLIDATED FOR HAKKA HYMNAL

In a conclusive meeting, The Hakka Mission Committee's "Hymn Editorial Group" nailed into place plans for publishing an official Hakka Hymnal. The meeting held by the hymn editorial group accomplished some tasks, not the least including the selection of the actual hymns that will go into the new Hakka Hymnal. Most of the hymns selected come from the official Taiwanese Presbyterian hymnbook, Seng-Si, which is printed in Taiwanese Han characters and Romanised Taiwanese.

About 306 hymns from the Seng-Si were chosen for the Hakka Hymn book, and 100 more were chosen for the Hakka choir book. Forty-four more are to be chosen from contemporary Christian music.

The Hakka Hymnal is planned to be out by the end of 1995. The Hymnal will be the third Hakka language publication to appear in the Hakka Church, making another important addition to the list of religious Hakka publications.

PASSING OF SIR FRANCIS IBIAM

Sir Francis Ibiam passed away in Nigeria in June 1995 in his 89th year. Many persons in the Presbyterian Church in Canada will remember Sir Francis and his wife, Lady Endora Ibiam.

The Ibiams were invited to Canada by the General Board of Mission several times in the late 1950s and 1960s during the years when the Presbyterian Church in Canada was moving towards establishing a partnership with the Nigerian church. In the first years of Nigerian independence Sir Francis was governor of Eastern Nigeria. The Ibiams made a tremendous impression in Canada, turning most Canadian Presbyterian concepts of

Africans upside down. Sir Francis was single-handedly responsible for influencing the decision of the nearly 30 Canadians who volunteered for service in Nigeria in the 1950s and 1960s.

Sir Francis had returned his British Knighthood as a protest at British policy during the Biafran war, but he retained his title as a knight of St. John. In his later years, his full title was Ezeogu Elder Sir Dr. Akanu Ibiam—Ezeogu meaning chief of his town, Elder, his title in the church, and Akanu, his second name.

Lady Endora Ibiam, who was a power in her own right, passed away in 1974. Dr. Ibiam visited Canada once more about 1975 and then retired to his village, Unwana, where he lived quietly but continued to play an important role in both community and church life. His Bible Study classes for local children influenced many lives.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

The Presbyterian Church of Taiwan planned and held an International Forum in February 1994, which brought together 28 foreign guests and over 50 Taiwanese church and community leaders. The Forum discussed not only the role of the PCT in the ecumenical community but also the problem of the status of Taiwan in the international arena.

The crucial element of these discussions centered around the issue of what happens to ecumenical solidarity when a church adopts political positions. In the case of the PCT, which supports the independence of Taiwan, it contradicts the stance of the CCC (China Christian Council) which adheres to the PRC (People's Republic of China) stance on the "One China" policy.

The ecumenical partners attending the forum left with a better understanding of the dilemma posed by the politics of the Taiwan/China region. The concern of the PCT about the fading support of its ecumenical partners was evident as some partner churches expressed limitations to solidarity in the eagerness to develop good relations with the CCC. The future is uncertain, as CCC advances the political claim of the PRC and openly attempts to interfere in the relationships between the PCT and its ecumenical partners.

FORUM TO CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Preparations are well underway for the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries in 1996. Long known as simply "the Forum", it was founded in 1921 as the Canadian School of Missions by the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. In 1962 it became the Canadian School of Missions and Ecumenical Institute and in 1976, the Ecumenical Forum of Canada. Finally, in 1989, it came to be called the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries. Although the Forum has had several names and homes, it has always had as its primary concern the ecumenical cooperation of the Canadian churches in their participation in God's mission in the world. Figures such as Lowell Murray, Canon James Puxley, Katharine Hockin, Cyril Powles and Lois Wilson have kept the Forum on the cutting edge of missiology and ecumenical life in Canada over the decades.

An enthusiastic committee representing the various denominations, organizations and religious communities which have contributed to the life of the Forum over the years has been working hard planning activities to celebrate the history of the Forum and the churches' participation in global mission.

A booklet will be produced reflecting on the rich history of the Forum. Reflections of those involved in the Forum over the years are being sought as well as mementoes which will help in the celebration.

For further information contact: Bob Faris. Phone: 416-924-9351; Fax: 416-924-5356.

INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

Toronto—27 July—The Canadian Council of Churches announced that an interim general secretary has been appointed for a one year term. Robert H. Mills takes up duties on a half-time basis beginning 15 September 1995.

Rev. Mills, a United Church minister, recently concluded six years as Executive Secretary of the United Church of Canada's Maritime Conference. Prior to that time he served congregations in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

He has been a United Church delegate to various ecumenical meetings, including the CCC Triennial Assembly held in 1985 in Halifax, and served as secretary of the Christian Festival III Planning Committee. He has also been active in local and regional ecumenical activity, including the Atlantic Ecumenical Council and the Halifax-Dartmouth Council of Churches.

Mills is being asked to help guide the Council through a period of planning and evaluation that is intended to discern the priorities and shared commitments of the CCC's 18 member churches in a time of rapid change and new challenges.

NEWS—MISSION STUDY THEMES

• Land Mine Clearance Meeting

The July 4-7 United Nations-sponsored International Meeting on Land Mine Clearance focused the attention of the international community on the growing threat of uncleared land mines. The Geneva meeting also demonstrated ways in which the international community can cooperate to combat the problem.

The meeting was attended by governmental delegations representing more than 40 countries as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It brought together a number of countries that had not previously been active in international demining efforts but are now prepared to contribute resources to demining programs. Since 1993, when the General Assembly first included the subject of mine clearance on its agenda, the United Nations has intensified its efforts to deal with the problem of uncleared land mines.

Former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance led the US delegation. "The problem is so large that the efforts of no single state, nor even of a small group of states, will be enough— it will require action by the world community," he said. Clearing minefields and providing rehabilitation for victims "will not be enough," Vance emphasized. "Our goal must be the eventual elimination of all anti-personnel land mines."

The pledges made at the meeting totalled $20.6 million. UN officials estimated that, even though pledging to the Trust Fund was modest, approximately $85 million in contributions for land mine-related activities was actually generated by the conference when bilateral assistance and in-kind donations are also included.

Note: The 121st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church adopted recommendations on the subject of land mines presented by the International Affairs Committee pp12.1.12-12.1.13. See also Mission Update July 1995 page 6.

• UN Population Award

The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC) was awarded the UN Population Award in a ceremony on June 5 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Mrs. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in announcing the award said that the Committee for the United Nations Population Award ... decided to select the Inter African Committee for the 1995 Population Award in recognition of its most outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions and to their solutions. The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Women's Missionary Society have supported the work of IAC.

• People's Democracy

In a letter to the editor of the *New Internationalist*, Elizabeth Snell, Ottawa writes: The Somalia situation described by Mohamed Sahnoun in the issue on the United Nations (NI 262) has some parallels to the UN itself. Like Somalia, the option of empowering grassroots to develop local solutions to issues as they arise is too often ignored in favour of waiting for the crisis and dealing through the warlords, the Security Council 'Big Five'.

Meanwhile, the IMF, World Bank, the World Trade Organization and global currency traders have become the *de facto* world government.

What is lacking is democracy. The people are not represented in any of these fora. Nations are represented, especially rich ones. But when most conflicts are internal and many issues global, that's not enough. For 50 years the World Federalist Movement (current President Sir Peter Ustinov) has been working on democratizing world structures, including the UN.

Among many ideas for reform, they have a proposal for a consultative UN Parliamentary Assembly, whose representatives could start out being elected from among current national parliamentarians.

This would be an easy step to begin to represent world citizens. Before discarding the UN, as suggested by Richard Gott in your magazine, 'we, the peoples of the United Nations', should try to claim it and reform it.

If you are interested, contact the World Federalists of Canada, Suite 207, 145 Spruce Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6P1. (Elizabeth Snell, Ottawa, Canada)

• Day of Women's Actions

Many women's groups around the world are preparing for the NGO Forum and the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace. At an international conference in Vancouver in May 1994, women from all over Canada and the world overwhelmingly endorsed a call for a day of women's actions.

There is an urgent need for creative actions by women, indeed all people everywhere to call attention to our efforts to stop the violence against women, children and the planet. The Worldwide Day of Women's Actions is proposed for September 6, 1995.

During September 1995 the world's leaders and the world media will be focused on women for a brief moment and at this time they may be more open to women's voices than usual.

The Beijing conference must not be seen as a remote high power summit of high ranking officials (men or women); rather, it should be an occasion for all women everywhere. It should be part of a process involving direct actions everywhere, it should be part of a process building towards, and going beyond, September 1995.

• Europe's Churches Challenged

Geneva, 26 May (ENI)—The general secretary of the European Conference of churches (CEC), Jean Fischer, has called on churches in Europe "to take risks" and "to take reconciliation seriously. That implies a capacity to repent, to offer and accept pardon, and to plan together for new initiatives," he told *ENI*, shortly after CEC's central committee met in Assisi.

CEC has 118 member churches—Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican—across Europe. Together with the (Roman Catholic) Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE), CEC is to organise the Second European Ecumenical Assembly in Graz, Austria, from 23 to 29 June 1997. The theme of the assembly will be "Reconciliation, Gift of God and Source of New Life".

Fischer urged churches to look at positive achievements in church relations. "I am not naive enough to say that the tensions and habits of living apart for centuries can be reconciled in two years. But particular attention can be given in the coming two years to assess what steps towards reconciliation can be confirmed in conscience and in faith," he said.

"We will seek to manifest visibly the degree of unity which has already been reached, and to stress this rather than stressing those aspects which are still not reconciled in the life of the churches."

Fischer said that what would happen among churches in the next two years in different European countries was as important as, or more important than, what would happen at Graz.

Asked about the future of CEC, Fischer said: "I have the feeling that, as many people have said in the past year, if there was no CEC, we would have to establish one."

CEC, Fischer said, existed alongside other ecumenical organisations which were also trying to deal with the rapid changes in Europe.

—Edmund Doogue

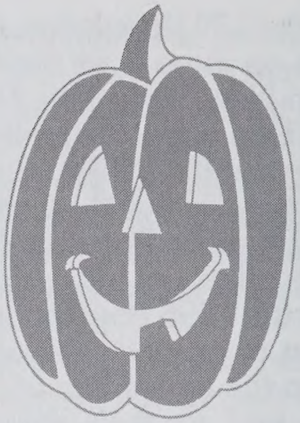
Correction: Honorary Membership

Marjorie Middleton, Medicine Hat, Alberta was incorrectly listed on page 22 of the July/August Glad Tidings.

The following name should have been listed:

Burton, Dorothy
Medicine Hat, Alberta

Our apologies for this error.



The Women's Missionary Society (WD) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada seeks applications for two positions:

1. Executive Secretary
Duties to commence January 1, 1996

2. Program Secretary
Duties to commence July 1, 1996

Candidates will have:
(1) Experience and training in Christian Education particularly with adults.
(2) Preferably a certificate or diploma from a recognized theological institution.
(3) Well developed computer skills

For further details and job descriptions contact before October 20, 1995:

Catherine Bray,
WMS (WD)
50 Wynford Drive,
North York, Ontario M3C 1J7

Who's Counting?!

Two figures in the **Estimates** page 7 *Glad Tidings* July/August 1995 were incorrectly reported: to Mission Education $340,500 (NOT $390,500) and Grants $162,200 (NOT $162,000).

In the Society

SYNODICAL

Fifty-eight women from 13 congregations in **Saskatchewan** registered for the women's gathering "Women in 1995". This first annual event for Presbyterian women organized by the newly formed Saskatchewan Core Committee (WMS) was held at St. Andrew's Church, Saskatoon on June 24, 1995.

The purpose of this event was "Education, Inspiration, Fellowship and Worship." Guest speaker, Mickey Johnston, spoke on "Mourners and Midwives", pointing out that future changes in our organization can eventually bring joy and satisfaction in new ways of witness and service.

Three concurrent workshops gave registrants the opportunity to discuss with Margaret Wilson issues on "Ministering with Women"; to learn more about current resources from Yoka de Bruijn, Dineke Kraay and Mary Findlay; and to hear reports of 1995 Council by Nancy Wehrmann and Bernice Shih. Part of the registration requirement was to bring a pail of cookies for Christopher Lake Camp. Displays included the history of the Core Committee, Women's Camp at Christopher Lake, the Glad Tidings 70th Anniversary, current books, mission study information as well as Bibles, cards, etc. provided by the Canadian Bible Society store.

Fellowship and worship were highlighted with singing led by Deanna Schroeder. The day closed with worship and communion led by Rev. Annabelle Wallace.

We Are a Thunderstorm
Individually - We are single drops of
rain falling silently into the dust
Offering scant promise of moisture to a
thirsty land
But together - We can nourish the earth
And revive its hopes and dreams
Together - We are a thunderstorm!
(Author Unknown)

The 81st Annual Meeting of the **British Columbia** Synodical took place in St. Columba Church, Vancouver, B.C. on March 21-22, 1995. The theme was Moisture To A Thirsty Land, Psalm 63:1 (NIV).

Synodical President, Laurie Jackson, welcomed everyone and introduced Rev. Murat Kuntel, minister of St. Columba's Church, who led the opening devotions.

Janet Tremblay led an interesting bible study. Annual reports were interspersed with a book talk by Grace Murdoch and a solo by Chris Booth of Nelson.

After supper a quartette and the Bell Ringers of St. Columba entertained.

The evening guest speaker was Marion (Mickey) Johnston of Edmonton who spoke on her work and life.

The four Presbyterial representatives opened the proceeding with a devotional based on the theme. A communion service was led by Rev. Murat Kuntel.

Margaret Nichols reported on the Provincial Council of Women.

After lunch, Rev. Karen McCandless-Davis showed a film and spoke on 'Broken Vows,' a Christian perspective on domestic violence.

PRESBYTERIAL

Thirty-seven members of the **Brandon and Winnipeg** Presbyterials held their Annual June Rally, June 17 at First Church, Portage la Prairie. The gathering was chaired by Gloria Kennedy, President of Brandon Presbyterial. Opening worship, based on the bible studies at the Annual Council Meeting was led by Eileen Parish.

Reports on Council were given by delegates. A skit written by Frances

Nugent to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Glad Tidings, was performed and a hymn for Glad Tidings, also written by Frances, was sung as well as "Happy Birthday". Items related to the Anniversary were for sale.

The offering was designated for new shelving for the Book Room. A Western Women's Conference for 1997 was discussed and the theme of *Revive!* was chosen.

Eileen Parish closed the meeting with a short meditation.

The Spring Rally of **Maitland** Presbyterial was held May 1st at St. Andrew's Church, Molesworth, Ontario. Rev. Paul Chambers welcomed everyone and Mrs. Chambers led the Children's Choir in singing. President Mildred Dupont conducted the meeting.

Worship was conducted by the women from Gorrie with Muriel Neilson reading the scripture and prayer, and Mrs. Chambers and Marion Mundell presenting a skit. Following the offering Audrey Boron of Kincardine led in prayer.

Muriel MacKenzie, South Kinloss, received an Honorary Membership Certificate presented by Kathy Howald on behalf of the Presbyterial. Elizabeth Dickie, South Kinloss, led the In Memoriam Service.

Ethel Baker of Molesworth introduced special speaker, Margaret Greig, AEC, who showed slides of her trip to Guatemala and El Salvador.

Peggy Henderson of Lucknow closed the meeting with prayer.

The Annual Meeting of **Essex Kent** Presbyterial was held at First Church, Chatham, Ontario on March 29, 1995.

President Bessie Robertson constituted the meeting and Rev. Evelyn Carpenter extended greetings from the host church. Devotions were led by the Margaret Strang Auxiliary of First Church and Ruth McDowell led the In Memoriam service.

AEC Margaret Greig gave a report on the Five-Year Plan. Following lunch, guest speaker Rick Fee, Presbyterian World Service & Development, spoke on the theme *African Churches Speak*. His talk was very informative and very much enjoyed.

A motion was made and accepted to change the name from Chatham to Essex Kent Presbyterial.

Alice Brown presented the slate of officers for 1995 and Rev. Rosemary Doran conducted the installation service.

Rev. Kathleen Pfeffer of New St. Andrew's, Dover and of Valetta was introduced.

Closing worship was conducted by Isobel Warwick.

East Toronto Presbyterial held its Annual Meeting on February 25, 1995 at Trinity-York Mills Church. President Giollo Kelly conducted the meeting. Noreen Marshall led a hymn sing before the meeting. Devotions were led by the women from Trinity. Greetings were brought from Rev. Gordon Beaton, minister of Trinity, Jean Dancey, President, Toronto-Kingston Synodical, and Bev McWhinnie, President, West Toronto Presbyterial.

Guest speaker was James Milner, who gave an excellent account of his summer in Malawi with Youth in Mission. The Presbyterial was divided into three prayer groups: India; Africa; Canada.

Lunch was served by the women from Trinity. After lunch Lynda Reid spoke on the Five-Year Plan.

Rev. Gordon Beaton installed the officers for 1995.

Leaside Church hosted the Spring Rally for **East Toronto** Presbyterial on April 25, 1995. Devotions were led by the women from Riverdale Church. Guest speaker was Wilma Welsh who gave an overview of mission in the Presbyterian Church and of her trip to Taiwan.

Refreshments were provided by Willowdale Church Anna Cooper Auxiliary and members of the Executive.

London Presbyterial held an appreciation tea in honour of Marion Weldon, Treasurer of Council Executive. Many friends were received on Saturday afternoon June 24th at Tempo Church. Margaret McCullough, President, spoke of Marion's years of dedicated service to the WMS and presented a picture on behalf of London Presbyterial (below).

The Spring Rally of **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial was held at Gale Church, Elmira, Ontario on May 30th, 1995 with the president, Dorothy McCombie presiding.

Rev. Dr. Linda Bell, minister of Gale Church, brought greetings from the congregation and welcomed all to the rally. Dorothy Harbottle, Arthur, led in devotions.

Guest speaker was Lynn Harris, Pastoral Assistant at Calvin Church, Kitchener, who spoke on the WMS Five-Year Plan. Lynn pointed out that changes have always taken place down through the years, such as the changes the disciples had to make when Jesus was no longer with them, and they were left on their own with the help of the Holy Spirit to carry on His work. There are great challenges today but the WMS has great pillars of strength to fall back on, such as prayer, fellowship and commitment.

Linda Bell sang "For those tears I died" and closed the rally with the benediction.

The Semi-Annual Meeting of **Peterborough** Presbyterial was held at St. Andrew's Church, Hastings, Ontario on May 13, 1995. President, Jean Montgomery constituted the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Douglas Brown, Hastings, brought greetings and extended a welcome. Worship was led by Marion Hay, Burnbrae.

Delegates to the Toronto-Kingston Synodical gave detailed reports. Each delegate was given a "faith" bucket to wear which stressed love, mission, service and prayer.

Major Donald Howson, Peterborough, who is a Life Member of the WMS, spoke of his years serving as Chaplain during the Korean War.

Another speaker, Franklin Montgomery, a lawyer in New York City who had toured Kenya, Africa on holiday with his wife, showed slides of the country and wildlife native to the district.

The business was led by the president, and book reviews were given by Jackie Kelly, Norwood.

A beautiful duet was sung by Jacqueline Beamish and Betty Connors of Hastings accompanied by Helen King, Warkworth who also, with Jackie Kelly, conducted several hymn sings.

Courtesies were extended by Holly Hall, Centreville.

Glengarry Presbyterial met for the 81st Spring Rally on June 8, 1995, in Kenyon Church, Dunvegan, Ontario. President Lorna MacGregor opened the meeting with prayer and the theme was, *O Spirit, Come, Cleanse, Release Us*.

Sheila Paterson and Rita Power, Vankleek Hill, conducted worship. Vera MacEwen, Maxville, President of Quebec and Eastern Ontario Synodical, brought greetings and Dr. Garry Van Bruchem, Moderator of Synod, brought greetings from Seaway Glengarry Presbytery.

Following lunch, Vera MacEwen led a hymn sing, accompanied by Iva Bush. The Memorial Service was led by Lorna

MacGregor and Wilma MacMillan, Knox Church, Moose Creek.

Guest speaker, Beverly Cumming, Ottawa, was introduced by Peg Ferguson. Beverly spoke on "The Basics of Pastoral Care for the Everyday Person." Beverly, formerly in nursing, and now a pastoral care worker, described the effectiveness of pastoral care.

Flora Chisholm, Dunvegan, gave a reading on "Hugs", and Eleanore MacLean thanked everyone who helped to host a most enjoyable and successful Spring Rally.

One hundred and twenty-nine women from **Stratford-Huron** Presbyterial met in Caven Church, Exeter, Ontario for their Spring Rally. The evening began with singing followed by a delicious salad supper provided by the Exeter WMS and the Gordon Auxiliary.

Shirley Aitcheson, Stratford, presided, and led the singing, assisted by Margaret Greig on the guitar and Audrey Vorstenbosch at the piano.

Scripture was read by Ruth Laing, Mitchell, and a meditation on humour was given by Shirley Aitcheson. Exeter choir sang two numbers accompanied by the organist, Sharon McNeilly. Bev Nichol, Atwood, led in prayer.

Guest speaker, Beanie the Clown (Pat Willows, Carlingford) stressed the need for warm hugs and laughter in our lives. She is a professional clown who volunteers in Stratford Hospital as well as in nursing homes, etc. She described the benefits of laughter and advised everyone to work on having a sense of humour and to practise walking down the street with a smile.

Bessie Thompson and Helen McLean-Nethercott of Avonbank-Motherwell WMS sang two duets accompanied by Anna Mae Stephens. Cathy Elliott, Cromarty, gave a humorous reading of church bulletin bloopers.

Margaret Greig, AEC, brought information from Synod and WMS Council, and introduced some resources. Verna Willows and Barbara McKay, Stratford, reported on the Hamilton-London Synodical. The offering was received and dedicated by Jeanette Laing, Shakespeare. Robina Alexander, Listowel gave the courtesy remarks.

Westminster Presbyterial held their Friendship Luncheon June 3, 1995 at Kerrisdale Church Hall. Rev. R. Sands, minister of the church, asked the blessing.

Singing of favorite hymns was led by Jeannie Telford followed by Yvonne Calderwood at the piano. Rev. Sands spoke about "Congregational Humour".

Council delegate, Rev. E. McLagan, gave an interesting full account of the Annual Council Meeting.

Laurie Jackson, Synodical President, closed the meeting with prayer.

On May 18, 1995 **Barrie** Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting in Jubilee Church, Stayner, Ontario. Sylvia VanBeest, Stayner, President welcomed everyone. Greetings were extended by Sean Foster, student minister.

Devotions were led by the Baxter WMS. Prayers for missionaries were led by Jill Pardy.

Peggy Miller presented Book Reviews. A Memorial Service was conducted by Bernice Burridge, Historian Secretary. The officers were installed by Audrey Little. A delicious dinner was served followed by singing led by Catherine Walker.

Sean Foster spoke on discipleship at home.

The Spring Rally of the Presbyterial of **Central Alberta**, was held on June 12th at Chalmers Church in Penhold, Alberta with President Mary Duncan presiding.

Irwin Cunningham of Sylvan Lake led a most interesting and thought provoking study based on Isaiah 40 with excerpts taken from Numbers and Exodus.

Mary Glover reported on the Synodical meeting in Edmonton. The offering was given to the campership fund at Camp Kannawin, Sylvan Lake.

After a bountiful lunch Mary Duncan reported on Council 1995. The day's activities ended with members making posters depicting the work of the Church at home and around the world.

The **Brockville** Presbyterial May Rally was held in St. Paul's, Kemptville, Ontario on May 17th, the theme *Africa*. The meeting was constituted by President Margaret Reynolds.

Devotions were given by the Brockville group. Annie Blaine sang a lovely solo. The morning guest speaker was Ilona Thomas, Morrisburg, who spoke on her life growing up in South Africa. We then broke up into study and prayer groups focusing on missionaries and their work in Africa.

The afternoon opened with a hymn sing led by Joy Armour. We then saw slides and heard Mary Lou Johnston, from Montreal. Synodical highlights were presented and the Five-Year Plan was outlined by Mary Moorhead. Afternoon devotions were given by the Caintown WMS. The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Allison Sharpe.

LOCAL

On May 24 the Joy Mahood WMS of St. Columba Church, **Parksville**, British Columbia hosted an Appreciation Luncheon for the Sunday School Teachers and helpers past and present. It seemed appropriate since we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this September.

Rev. Robert Kerr spoke to the teachers and thanked them sincerely for their many years of dedicated service to the children.

A special out-of-town guest was Marjorie Currier of Victoria, a charter member of St. Columba, who has always had a lively interest in and love for the children. Marjorie had been involved with the Sunday School since the very beginning of the congregation.

Another special guest was Rev. Dennis Mahood, retired former minister of St. Andrew's, Nanaimo who was responsible for the building of St. Columba, Parksville more than 25 years ago.

June Watson, Superintendent of St. Columba Sunday School thanked the WMS on behalf of the teachers.

Calvin Ladies Guild of **Calvin** Church, **Abbotsford**, B.C. met on April 13.

Laurie Jackson, New Westminster, British Columbia Synodical President, the keynote speaker, presented an educational viewpoint on the WMS Five-Year Plan. Laurie also spoke about the mission study.

The picture below shows Jean Nugent, who has been a highly active member, with Laurie Jackson. Jean's husband Dr. Oliver Nugent, was also present. The picture represents Laurie's description of the six "thinking" hats representing our attitudes. The emotional thinking approach can lead to participation and commitment to deep involvement to *stand up, speak out and be counted.*

Muriel Fraser died on June 16, 1995 at her residence in Bayfield, Ontario. Muriel was a very loyal member of the **Margaret Ramsay WMS** of Hamilton Road, London. She continued to attend meetings for several years after moving from London to Bayfield. Muriel was on the executive of the London Presbyterial, holding several offices over the years.

A very meaningful memorial service was held June 20 at St. Andrew's United Church, Bayfield. Rev. Jack Patterson conducted the service and Rev. Murdo Pollock, formerly of Hamilton Road, London, gave a special memorial address.

Muriel will always be remembered for her kind, loving ways and her friendly smile.

Gertrude Bydges (age 79) passed away on April 18, 1995 after a brief and courageous battle with cancer. Gertrude was a Life Member of the WMS, and a long time member of **St. Andrew's** Church in **Geraldton**, Ontario where she was for many years the organist and director for both Senior and Junior Choirs.

Gertrude continued to teach piano and voice to private students in the community, even after she retired from being a full time teacher in the elementary school in Geraldton. She was active in music locally and will be greatly missed not only by the congregation at St. Andrew's, but also by the community at large.

ANNIVERSARY

The 110th anniversary of **Brockville** Presbyterial was held on March 3rd, 1995, at Knox Church, Iroquois, Ontario. From left to right are guest speakers —Dick and Jane Paul, Rev. Leslie Walker and host minister Rev. Marion Johnston.

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Lillian Blaise

Doris Blaise was born in Hawkesbury, Ontario, one of five children. The family were members of St. Paul's Church in Hawkesbury and her mother was active in the Women's Missionary Society there. Doris graduated from High School in Hawkesbury and attended Business College in Ottawa.

In the 1940s the family moved to Montreal where Doris worked for Ogilvie Flour for 26 years. She then worked for six years at the Presbytery Office with Dr. Ritchie Bell, who was Clerk of Montreal Presbytery at that time.

At the time of her death, Doris had been an active member at Ephraim Scott Memorial Church, Montreal, for nearly 50 years. She was Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years and active in the Women's Auxiliary and the Dramatic Club. Doris served as Secretary of the Board of Managers at Ephraim Scott and President of the WMS. Ordained as elder in 1975, Doris was Clerk of Session at Ephraim Scott from 1986 to 1993.

- Doris Blaise

She also served as representative elder for Ephraim Scott.

Active at the Presbyterial and Synodical levels of the Women's Missionary Society, she was Honorary President of both. Doris also served on Council Executive and as the WMS representative on the Board of World Mission and on the National Council of Women.

Doris' vast experience and her knowledge of the WMS made her a valued speaker over the years. With Doris as guest speaker you could always be assured of an informative, interesting presentation, interspersed with many humorous anecdotes.

Closely involved in the planning and building of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Homes, she was on her home Church's Committee to raise funds. She served on the first Board of Directors and later as Chairperson. In both Evening and Afternoon WMS groups at St. Andrew's Homes this seemingly tireless worker held various offices and served a term as President. For many years hers was a loved and familiar face to the residents of St. Andrew's Homes.

She has worn many hats over the years – often at the same time. Doris Blaise died on Saturday, June 19th, 1995, at the Montreal General Hospital. Much loved by so many people, it seems appropriate to quote John 21:25, if you will forgive a little liberty with the biblical text: "There are also many other things that (Doris) did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that could be written."

Margaret Isabel Robertson

- Peggy Robertson

Margaret Robertson passed away in Burnaby General Hospital on July 14, 1995. She was an active worker in the life of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and was well known locally and nationally for her work in the Women's Missionary Society and CGIT. To most she was affectionately known as "Peggy" and to some of her friends as "Mrs. WMS".

Margaret was born in Stratford, Ontario, the third of four daughters. She was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Stratford. She became a Church School teacher, CGIT leader, was active in the Young People's Society at local, Presbytery and Provincial levels, also giving leadership at camp.

Peggy received her education in Stratford, attending Stratford Normal School and the University of Western Ontario, London. She taught in both city and rural schools.

Following his ordination in Knox, Stratford in 1946 Margaret and her husband Rev. Norval George Robertson served in congregations in Creston, B.C. and Vancouver, where Margaret was active in Sunday School, WMS groups and CGIT camp.

Margaret served in different offices on the executive of Westminster Presbyterial including Glad Tidings Secretary and Presbyterial President (1978-1980).

B.C. Synodical also benefited

from Margaret's expertise as she held several offices including Synodical President (1970-1972). At one time, Margaret represented B.C. Synodical on the Provincial Council of Women.

Margaret's other church activities included serving as a denominational representative on Vancouver CGIT committee and the B.C. Provincial CGIT Board where she served in various offices, assisting in conferences, camps, leadership training events, and was a sponsor for the Vancouver Presbyterian Girls' Council.

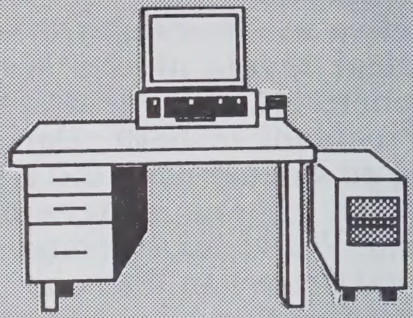
Between the time of the resignation of Grace MacKay (1954) and the appointment of May Nutt (1957), Margaret assumed some of the duties of the Regional Secretary related to CGIT.

Margaret Robertson was presented with a Life Membership by Creston WMS in 1954, and with an Honorary Membership by the WMS and members of St. Paul's in 1957.

Margaret was also involved with the local community – drove for Meals on Wheels for 15 years, was a member of the Board of Directors of Kensington Community Centre Association for several years and served on the Program Committee.

In her latter years, Margaret moved into Canada Way Lodge where she continued to enjoy visits from her friends, attend Gordon Church and take an active interest in the activities of the Lodge.

A Service of Remembrance was held in Gordon Presbyterian Church, Burnaby, July 19, 1995 with the Rev. Dr. W. R. Bell officiating. Margaret is survived by her son George, his wife Susan, their children Ian and Megan, and one sister, Eleanor in London, Ontario. Margaret will be sadly missed by many in the Presbyterian Church across Canada.



CIRCULATION NEWS

Has your group received the *Glad Tidings* mailing which was sent to all *GT* secretaries/contact persons in mid-August? It contains the subscription lists and ideas for promotion. If by mid-September the *GT* secretary in your congregation has not received the mailing she should perhaps check with your local post office or contact the *GT* office. The mailing is sent to whomever we have listed as *Glad Tidings* secretary/contact person.

September is when you need to consider renewing your subscription for 1996. You can help by having your subscription money ready to give to the *GT* secretary when she starts collecting. The cost of subscriptions for 1996 is $8.50 (including GST) for six issues which is a bargain when you see the yearly cost of other publications. The deadline is November 1, 1995.

If there is someone in your congregation who would like to subscribe to *Glad Tidings* but cannot afford to, perhaps the group can give them a gift subscription. It is also available in Large Print (photocopy) for $8.00 (no GST) and on cassette tape for the visually impaired.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

A Reminder

It's Time to Renew Your Subscription

IF YOU SUBSCRIBE THROUGH A GROUP you can help your Local Glad Tidings Secretary by:

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2. Arranging to *transfer* your subscription if you are moving into an area where there is another group. It is more costly to *cancel* from one group and add as "new" on another.

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November 1, 1995

is the deadline for renewals and new subscriptions.
Cost of a subscription for 1996 is **$8.50** (including GST) for 6 issues.

IN REMEMBRANCE

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Beaverton, Ont.

Mrs. Gilberta Nicholls,
Mrs. Marcella Rutledge,
St. Andrew's, Bolsover, Ont.

Mrs. Rachel R. Moore,
St. David's, Campbellville, Ont.

Mrs. Jack (Jean) Thompson,
First, Chatham, Ont.

Mrs. Isabel MacLeod,
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Mary Jean Amos,
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Mrs. Edith Bannerman,
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Glad Tidings

November/December 1995

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L. JUNE STEVENSON
EDITOR

KATHERINE ALLEN
CIRCULATION MANAGER

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

This issue . . . PEACE

CREDITS: Cover photography —Terry Nicholls

November/December 1995

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us...and he is named Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Has Anything Changed?

In the 1940s Mother, Grandma, my older brother Nick and I were living in a small double tenement house in Cornwall. There were 1½ bedrooms. I still slept in a crib for there was neither room nor money for anything else. My father had gone overseas in 1941.

1942 was the year of the great ice storm. The city lay outside our windows like a great frozen wonderland. The wires bowed to the ground beneath the weight of ice. There was no heat or light in the city for days. Across the road, a streetcar stood frozen in its tracks, looking greyish and spooky like the ghost of Christmas past.

I remember candles flicking away the shadows as we climbed the back stairs to bed, I in my flannel nightgown and soft little white mittens. For, that was the year I got the chicken pox and wasn't allowed to scratch.

Supplies in the shops dwindled, especially candles, and people had to make their own.

New Year's dinner was like a winter cookout. Mum, Nick and I huddled by the furnace in the cellar and cooked a can of pork and beans over the fire. We were thankful for the furnace during that cold time, although it meant steady work for my mother and brother, shoveling coal and chopping wood. One morning the end of the hatchet flew off and hit mother smack in the middle of the forehead. Fortunately it was the blunt end, and apart from a nasty bruise, she was fine.

During 1943 Grandma spent more time in her bed and sometimes lingered in the little bathroom upstairs. Once, to my embarrassment, I had to use the potty my mother kept on the cellar stair. I worried that the resident mouse might jump out of the garbage pail on the stair and scare me. Grandma never came downstairs again after Christmas that year.

Without Grandma's company mother was alone more often. My most vivid memory is of her sitting by the window looking down the road as if waiting for someone to come home.

What I remember most was the parcel that arrived each Christmas from overseas. Overseas...to my childish mind was like some place in a fairy tale, with little girls in aprons, wooden shoes, funny little hats and blonde pigtails.

There was a war going on over there. I imagined great knights in shining armour, jousting and riding their white stallions with fury and flair. My father was one of those brave knights.

Each Christmas from 1942 to 1944 he sent me a doll. It was only in later years that I discovered mother had bought that present downtown and all that rustling behind closed doors meant she was wrapping the doll up for father.

Meanwhile I pictured him shopping in some chic boutique in France, and sending that doll on its long journey across the vast ocean, dodging war ships that churned up the waters.

The journey would have taken months.

Well, the ice melted and the street car trundled off. Grandma died in March 1944 and in August 1945, the troops came home. Mother no longer waited by the window. My special Christmas present that year was having my Daddy home. The world's present was an optimistic peace. Fifty years later, I still have my last Christmas doll and the world is still optimistic about a lasting peace. I wonder, has anything changed?

Written in Love
June

–*June and her Christmas doll in a picture for Daddy.*

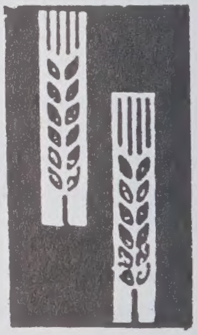
Sharing Brings Peace

by Rev. Tsutomu Shoji

Right after the end of World War II, I experienced hunger, as did many Japanese. I suffered from tuberculosis due to having had malnutrition three years after the war. In such conditions, my family tasted the sorrow and joy of sharing. We learned to care for each other. In order not to make the family sad, we ate while hiding our tears behind our soup bowls. When there was enough food, the meal was really a joy.

Commonly, people share not only food but also joy and sorrow. A famous Korean Christian poet, Kim Chi Ha, wrote:

Heaven is rice
As we cannot go to heaven alone
We should share rice with one another
As all share the light of the heavenly stars
We should share and eat rice together
Heaven is rice
When we eat and swallow rice
Heaven dwells in our body
Rice is heaven
Yes, rice is the matter
We should eat together



平
和

The character for peace is pronounced "heiwa" in Japan. The first character means "the balance of heaven and earth." The second character is made up of two parts "rice" and "mouth." If there is enough rice for all the mouths of the world we will have peace.

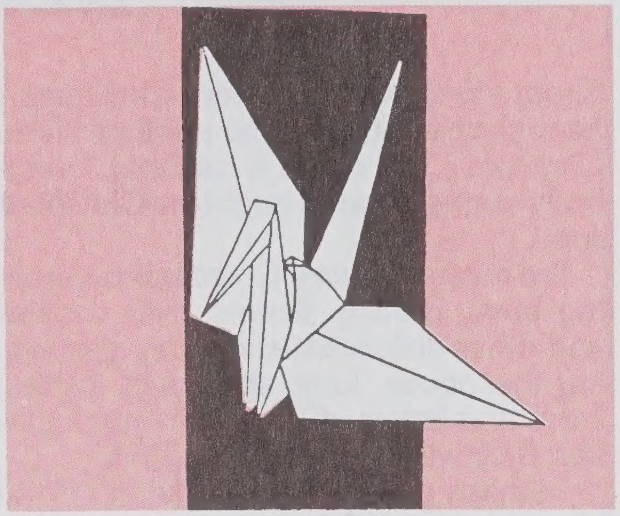
Heaven means peace. Peace is sharing rice or bread together. Jesus shared meals with his disciples and even ate with the Pharisees. But he most often ate with tax collectors, sinners, the poor and the destitute. For those people, the prayer for daily bread in the Lord's Prayer was for their common meal.

Jesus revealed God's reign in and by such a common meal, as he said, "The Kingdom of God is among you." He fed more than five thousand with a bit of bread because he embodied the love of God to those people. He refused to change stones to bread, since such a feat would not involve sharing.

Jesus' egalitarian practice in sharing meals was a joy for the poor, but was offensive for the leaders of contemporary Jewish society. Meals in this society were strictly eaten separately. Those who did not, or rather could not keep the law because of poverty, were not allowed to sit together with those who kept the law. Thus the egalitarianism of Jesus' common meal meant a radical challenge to the ruling order.

Jesus' disciples saw his death as a common meal in which he gave himself. Jesus shared himself completely with people. In the Holy Communion we are invited to that common meal. We are called to be in peace with each other and share with one another. If we refuse to share, take more than we need, burden our poorer neighbors with national debts, demand of them their resources, land, and women, we are guilty of greed. This is injustice and lack of peace.

We are called to be in peace with each other and share with one another.

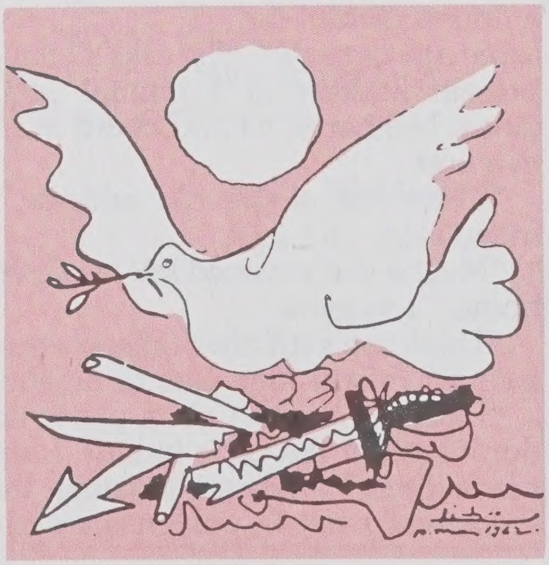


If we, with converted hearts, struggle to create a sharing society, then peace will come. As Psalm 85:10-13 says, peace is meeting and embracing; giving and receiving love with each other. Through this, earth and heaven will be integrated and nature will yield rich harvests.

(Rev. Shoji is the ex-General Secretary of the National Christian Council in Japan)

"Blessed are the Peacemakers..." Matthew 5:9

Sharing Brings Peace has been reprinted from JCAN Summer 1995. They say that in light of the anniversary of 50 years after the War, this double issue of JCAN [Japan Christian Activity News] focuses on the theme of peace. God calls all of us to be peacemakers. Christians in Japan are working for peace in various ways—confessing its past history, protesting against nuclear power plants, teaching peace education in schools, praying, networking with other countries, and sharing peace-related resources.



A Golden Ager's Christmas

by Gladys Nolan

Shopping a few days before Christmas, I hear people wishing one another Merry Christmas. The mood is catching. Everybody seems to have caught the Christmas spirit.

I'm having a lovely Christmas by keeping busy. Baking, fussing over cookies and other delicacies, shopping, decorating the house. Late again with getting cards and letters off, but with determination they will eventually get done.

Perhaps golden agers shouldn't try to keep up what they've always done at Christmas time, but one has a great feeling of achievement when they do the best they can.

Like children, golden agers love Christmas too. The telephone rings when I'm up on a stool trying to hang a garland. Not wanting to miss a call, I carefully climb down to answer. It is a friend about the same age as myself. She asks if I have the present address of a mutual acquaintance. Neither of us had heard from her in a year.

"She's not at the old address," my friend says.

"Maybe she's moved into a retirement home," I suggest.

"Think she's still alive? She always sent a card." Friend Jean sounds anxious.

"I wonder. I don't get a paper now, I don't look at the obits in case I see my name there." We laugh together. It's not funny really, but we golden agers have to laugh at ourselves. It's good for us. Jean chats away; we love the telephone calls that keep us in touch.

Meantime the dust collects, and the vacuuming needs to be done, but it will keep. If I'm lucky my teen-aged grandson will do it for me when he rushes in to say "Hi". So who cares about a little dust? We're supposed to enjoy our golden years. I'm trying.

Later in the evening while watching a repeat of what I missed yesterday on TV, I knit a few more rows on items I'm hoping to finish for Christmas gifts. A Christmas story warms my aging heart.

The telephone rings again. It is my granddaughter who lives 1500 miles away. My parcel had arrived, and my great grandchildren wanted to say thanks. Jesse, who is seven, plays Jingle Bells on the piano. Rachel, five, tells me she loves me. Long distance calls are always full of LOVE.

Closer by, twin greatgranddaughters, Emily and another Rachel, three and a half years old, will be in to visit and inspect parcels, and my tiny tree.

There will be plenty of excitement as we explore the decorated house together. They will certainly want to help me as I play Jingle Bells on the piano for them. It will be tiring for this golden ager, and for the darling children, but no Christmas is complete without them.

The spirit of Christmas is alive and well. Golden agers love it. I hope you do too.

On a Frosty Cold Night

On a frosty cold night in December
With a snow blanket covering the ground,
A man and his wife on a donkey
Soon came riding up into town.

The man looked exhausted and tired
The woman seemed worse for the wear.
I could see by the look on their faces
That they wanted a room they could share.

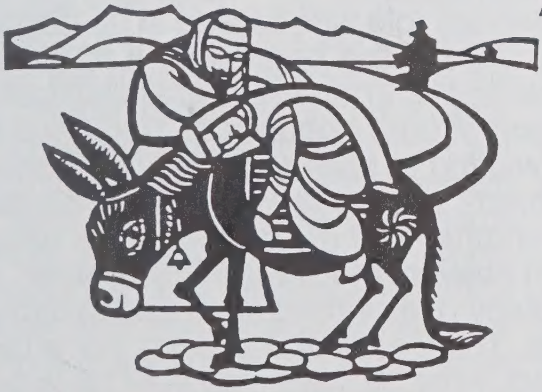
I looked at them sadly and told them
That there wasn't a room here in sight.
I advised that they keep up their searching
For a place where they could spend the night.

They wouldn't take no for an answer
And the man soon explained to me why.
His wife was expecting a baby
And she needed a place warm and dry.

An idea soon formed in my head
And I told her that if she was able,
She could have some soft hay and a blanket
And go and give birth in the stable.

And when she did, our Lord was born
That joyful Christmas day.
And like his star that shone so bright,
Jesus Christ will lead the way.

Julia Weisser
Age 14



- Papercut, created by students at Nanjing Theological Seminary, Nanjing, P.R. China

Voices from the Past...

In 1995 we have reprinted some material from earlier Glad Tidings in celebration of 70 years of bringing mission information and educational material to our readers. As we journey into 1996 we hope you will continue to celebrate the continuing work of Glad Tidings. Thanks to May Nutt for research into these articles.

A Christmas Meditation

"Behold the Handmaid of the Lord."

by David W. Hay, D.D.
Moderator, 101st General Assembly

One of the most appealing saints of the New Testament has a central role in the Christmas story—Mary, the Mother of Jesus. "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God," said the angel. Should she not then find favour with us? Her demeanour during her share in the Incarnation beautifully matches the divine mission of love that brought her Son to earth, and we can linger reverently on it without offending any Protestant sensibilities.

There is a profound background to her cry, "Ecce ancilla Domini: Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me according to thy will." She disposed herself to be the Servant of the Lord. At once our thoughts run back to Israel's destined role: "You are my servant... Fear not, for I am with you..." (Isaiah 41:9ff.). Isaiah developed the Servant-theme in a way that Israel would not accept. But Mary accepted it: "Be it unto me according to thy will." She continued to accept it, even when Simeon in blessing her and her family said, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also." The humility of Mary's obedience, come what may, is ethereally portrayed in the traditions of the Birth, which at the same time ring with the joy of her vocation: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." The joy and the anguish are brought together with unbearable poignancy in the carol:

The next sweet joy that Mary had
it was the joy of six,
To see her own Son, Jesus Christ,
upon the crucifix.

It was of course in Jesus alone that the Servant role was fulfilled in an ultimate, divine way, but his Mother was with him in it from the beginning. It must have counted much to him that he had as mother a mother in Israel unparallelled before.

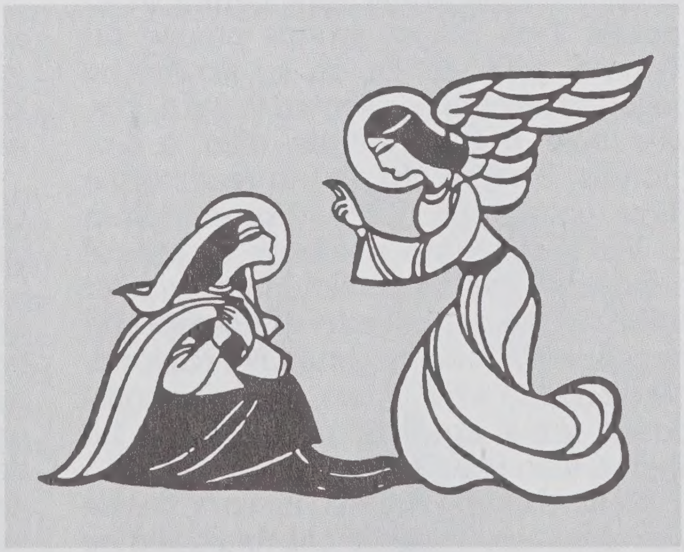
Other incidents depict Mary as the paragon of pure obedience. Told once that his Mother and his brethren were outside, waiting to speak to him, Jesus asked, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and mother" (Matt.12:46ff.). Hebrew idiom regularly uses strong contrasts to express what we should understand as preferences. The words of Jesus are not a harsh rejection of his Mother and kindred. Indeed, what he says may well have been prompted by her example of obedience to the Father. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord! Be it unto me according to thy will."

On another occasion of what looks superficially like a rebuff from her Son, she revealed the same spirit. When she told him at the wedding in Cana of Galilee that the wine had run out, he retorted, “Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.” Perhaps reading what was in his mind, she again displayed a simple obedience. “His mother saith to the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it” (John 2:1ff.).

This incident brings us back to Mary’s embodiment at her own level of the Servant-role of Israel. The miracle sets forth the Messiah who turned Jewish water into Gospel wine. Of course, our Lord’s accomplishment of this work was not perfected until the Cross and Resurrection, preceded by the institution of his sacrificial Supper (Both the Gospel-wine at Cana and the bread of the Feeding of the Multitude are sacramental references to the Messianic Banquet). Therefore at the wedding he said, “Mine hour is not yet come,” and yet at the same time he met the need to which Mary pointed because he was already transforming the Old Covenant into the New. The conclusion is to me irresistible, though not exegetically demonstrable, that Mary represents Israel in this incident also, because Jesus had to take a double attitude towards the Old Covenant. In fulfilling it spiritually he had to reject much of it literally. As the Jewish water had to be transformed into Gospel-wine, so there had to be in part a breach with Mary if the need to which she (as Israel) prophetically pointed was to be fulfilled.

The Fourth Gospel is highly allusive and symbolical, although, truth to tell, the other Gospels have to be understood in a similar way if we are to probe their message. The difference is that the Fourth Gospel frequently makes spiritual meanings highly articulate whereas the other Evangelists take it for granted that these meanings are still known. To read them with a prosaic factuality is to miss their purpose of communicating sacred, not secular history.

According to the ancient Fathers, the Fourth Gospel intends us to understand Mary as Israel in connection with some of the most moving words from the Cross: “When Jesus therefore saw his Mother, and the disciple, standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his Mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy Mother! And from that hour (N.B., the hour had come) that disciple took her unto his own home” (19:26f.). It is not necessary to deny a tender regard in Jesus for the future care of his Mother in order to see in his words also the truth that Israel’s destiny is fulfilled in the Church, and that the New Israel is to respect the Old Testament Israel from which according to the flesh she was born. The prominence of Mary in the Christmas story helps to unfold the mystery of salvation in the deep places of history. She is a cardinal figure not only because from her womb the Savior of mankind was born but also because she is a personal spiritual link between the Old Covenant and the New, and because she is set forth in Scripture as utterly responsive to her divine call, and as therefore a model for the Church to follow in carrying out her mission to be the Handmaid of the Lord.



- Papercut, created by students at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, Nanjing, P.R. China.

I Believe in Miracles

by Elizabeth Payne

Yes, I believe in miracles! Our very being is a miracle when we stop to ponder—the way the body is formed, the way our mind works, the heart, the blood, the muscles—all doing their allotted job. And nature. The more I look, the more I marvel; the return of the geese; the cycle of the seasons; the solar system—stars, moon, tides—all miraculous.

Eight specific miracles spring instantly to mind as I reflect, the first one being the restoration of my eyesight after a detached retina. Even the specialists were astounded. I wrote about this in *Glad Tidings* in October 1987.

Miracle number two followed a terrifying complete nervous breakdown in a grandson of mine while attending university. How could a brilliant young man become one completely unable to read, write, comprehend, associate with family or anybody else, lose over 50 pounds, and attempt suicide? Nobody knows, but it happened, to the utter sorrow of everyone.

We all needed to pray—pray—as we never had so urgently done before, I told myself. Two prayer groups prayed for Richard, and slowly, oh so slowly, he began to recover. He started to eat a little, was able to concentrate after a few months. Then he turned to reading the Bible, gaining comfort and support from it. We picked out passages of special help, and I was so thankful that he, after reaching the very depths of despair and hopelessness, was beginning to respond. He started to write letters, and even composed some excellent poetry which he shared with me.

Richard always wanted to work, but he was too weak, and when he finally did try one job after another, he was still unable to work with people. After over a year, Richard has regained his feeling of worth, and become supervisor over a group. I don't know if he will ever return to university, but we are proud of him, happy to know he is on the mend and almost back to his former self.

I regard this as a miracle. God was with him and slowly brought him back. I am sure Richard can say with the psalm writer, David: "I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

Miracle number three: a close relative of mine nearly died with a large kidney stone that suddenly disabled him while he was at work. Dreadful pain, then delirium, possessed him. He was flown to Edmonton where they found it difficult to ease his intense suffering. After a day of tests, the specialists decided they would have to operate. The time was set. Once more the prayer groups went into action.

Just as he was wheeled into the operating room and actually being lifted onto the table the stone was passed! He was released within a day, and a thin weak man was on his way home. He had lost 25 pounds, but was *alive* and needed no surgery. Don't tell me there are no miracles.

The fourth miracle is taking place now. Our daughter has had hepatitis for many years, and at one point, almost died. Countless prayers have gone up on her behalf, and now a new medication is being tried on a selected group of patients, daughter Susan being chosen as one of the "guinea pigs". After years of debilitating weakness and nausea, she is gaining strength and people say that the former bouncy Susan is back! She is happy and getting on with her life. Consequently we are all happy over it.

Susan told us last week that out of the people chosen to undertake this untried medication, she is the only one that has responded favorably! We believe that our prayers have been answered in a very positive way.

Number five happened several years ago, while I was in hospital. The head nurse came to me late at night, asking prayers for a young woman who was threatening to abort. I knew her well, so I quickly put on my housecoat and walked to her room. We chatted as friends do.

Meanwhile, I was praying silently—please God, don't let her lose her baby. After awhile the contractions stopped, and that 'baby' is now grown up!

The day of a very dear friend's funeral miracle number six occurred. This lovely woman who loved flowers and people had finally died of cancer. As I stood in the choir, I wondered how I could possibly get through this funeral, and I prayed for help. Suddenly, it was there—a vision. I saw Beatrice walking hand in hand with God. They were in a garden of flowers, and my friend stooped and plucked a pansy. "Oh—it is so *beautiful....*" she exclaimed with the flower in her hand and gazing about her. I can still hear her voice as she spoke. When the vision ended we were singing the last hymn and the funeral was over. I shall never forget the day when I was given that vision to help me through a difficult time.

Number seven: Once again I had unexpectedly come down with a severe throat infection, and my doctor admitted me to hospital. I was distressed for there was a very special occasion the next day. However, I resigned myself that I would have to miss it. A little girl had also been admitted that morning and she had had her tonsils removed. Again, late at night, the same nursing sister came to my room and whispered: "Little —— is bleeding heavily and we can't stop it. Please pray," and she was gone. There was a sense of urgency about this situation. Would this only daughter of a neighbor live?

The bleeding stopped by midnight, and Sister came into my room, very relieved. All she said was: "The bleeding has stopped, and she will be alright.!"

The next morning I awoke and I too was alright—my throat was fine after the extreme pain of the day before. I wanted to go home and attend this much looked forward to event, but the doctor who seemed puzzled, decided I should remain another day. I was sorely disappointed, but then realized that maybe I had been sent to the hospital on purpose to be present when a miracle took place.

Recently, we had some very disturbing, upsetting news and we found ourselves in an awkward, distressing situation, with no possible solution in sight. It involved several family members, and our health and peace of mind was sorely tried.

At church the next week, our minister's sermon was based on the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd." The message spoke to me and I could feel a peace stealing over me that I hadn't felt for weeks. The Good Shepherd who looks after his sheep! Now, when despair threatens to overwhelm me, I only have to call on this Good Shepherd and I am at peace.

Yes, I believe in miracles.

CHRISTMAS: NAMES OF JESUS

by Jim Phillips

P	T	F	K	A	N	C	I	E	N	T
R	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	E	Z	F
I	U	G	N	O	W	M	A	H	W	A
N	D	O	G	N	A	C	N	O	O	G
C	B	D	I	N	G	O	D	M	N	E
E	M	R	U	V	S	U	B	I	D	M
G	A	E	B	U	A	N	T	G	E	O
A	L	M	S	K	R	S	J	H	R	A
N	P	E	U	D	A	E	A	T	F	I
L	J	E	J	L	R	L	H	Y	U	G
I	E	D	R	H	P	O	R	T	L	K
S	V	E	S	H	A	R	O	N	A	Y
C	V	R	A	D	A	Y	S	O	N	F
E	C	A	E	P	Q	J	E	W	S	C

ALPHA and OMEGA
ANCIENT of DAYS
COUNSELOR
EMMANUEL
EVERLASTING FATHER
JESUS
KING of the JEWS
LAMB of GOD
MESSIAH
MIGHTY GOD
PRINCE of PEACE
REDEEMER
SAVIOUR
SON of GOD
SON of MAN
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GLIMPSES OF HOME, BIBLICAL IMAGES OF THE REALM OF GOD

by Eugenia A. Gamble. Mary Duckert: Suggestions for Leaders. Published by Horizons, Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (USA). 1995. Cost $6.00

Images of the realm of God—how often have we been asked to describe the kingdom of God and been hesitant as we tried to explain it in a sentence or two? This year's Bible Study, *Glimpses of Home,* defines the "realm of God or the kingdom of heaven as the rule of God over human hearts, lives, and the whole created order."

Each of the nine sessions is introduced by a contemporary incident that we might all, at sometime, have experienced. We are then shown two or three pictures of how Old or New Testament persons or communities understood what it meant to be ruled by God.

As you look at the glimpses/pictures of "Promise, Prophesy, Hope, Reversals and Inheritors of the Crown" do not be concerned at what might be omitted of God's activity rather focus on what is presented. The thrust of the glimpses comes at each picture's end when there is a time for personal reflection and guided questions.

Participants who want to explore additional Scriptural passages will find extra help in the Suggestions for Leaders at the end of the study. Mary Duckert has added a number of suggestions for group study which the leader will find very useful.

While this study is prepared by the Presbyterian Women (USA) it is one which should be recommended for any adult group which wants to do serious and thought-provoking Bible study. The age old questions, *What does it mean to be ruled by God?, What does God intend for humankind?* and *What is God's claim over me, the world and all that is in it?,* are as pertinent today as in biblical times.

I found *Glimpses of Home* thought-provoking as an individual study but wanted many times to explore the ideas presented with others. It is a relevant study for today's world and becomes richer when done in a group. When used in group study I recommend each person have her/his own copy. Leadership can then revolve within the group and discussion and exploration will become more meaningful because each member has had an opportunity to review the study prior to meeting time.

Norma Goldsmith

THIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OURS

by John Congram. Published by Wood Lake Books. 1995. Price $16.95.

John Congram's book is a very personal look at the Presbyterian Church in Canada. While he purports to give the reader general information about the Presbyterian Church in Canada, it is, in the final analysis, his own lens on the church which is given. It is a light-hearted, sometimes flippant look at the Presbyterian Church in Canada, a quick and interesting read with some substantive information. The sections on the sacraments are especially useful and informative as are the historical nuggets (for example, the story about A. B. Simpson).

There are several significant oversights. The rich contribution and significant impact of women's groups in the Presbyterian Church in Canada have been largely minimized, if not completely ignored. A second oversight concerns L'Eglise Presbytérienne au Canada (Ministère Francophone). While Congram points to the establishment of Presbyterianism by a Frenchman (John Calvin), he fails to comment on the status of our own French-speaking Presbyterians, especially in the Province of Quebec.

It was also disappointing to see that the long-standing partnership between the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and the Presbyterian Church in Canada was ignored—especially in light of the fact that our longest serving lay volunteer, George Loom, has been working with that church for at least 12 years, and the church has three full-time mission partners in Kenya plus numerous short-term volunteers doing significant work for the Kingdom of God in that part of the world. Congram talks about attracting youth into the church, but largely ignores the needs of the flock the Presbyterian Church in Canada has been called by God to serve—aging Presbyterians who need to find meaning and purpose in their faith as they complete their life journeys.

At the end of the book there is a study guide to accompany the text. If the book goes into reprint, it might be helpful to eliminate this section or publish it separately. It would be helpful to the reader to know where the suggestions for further reading could be obtained.

Congram stated: "The purpose of this book is to help in the process [of recovering] our confidence as a denomination in a specifically Reformed view and vision of the church and life [p. 136]." His book is an important contribution toward this end. The book is a good read and good value for money. I recommend it.

Catherine Chalin

SEASONAL RESOURCES AND GIFTS FROM THE BOOK ROOM

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G4080 - The Face of Jesus. Mission stories published by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. $5.00

G3428 - This Presbyterian Church of Ours by John Congram, editor of the Presbyterian Record. (See review page 13.) $16.95

G5630 - Clothed with the Sun, Biblical Women, Social Justice and Us by Joyce Hollyday. Fifty reflections on women in scripture with questions for individual or group study. $18.45

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Y2223 - Moving Out on Your Own. Reflections on Leaving Home for the First Time by Steve Swanson. 100 meditations on scripture and a prayer with each. $9.50

Y2226 - The United Nations. Its History and the Canadians Who Shaped It by Desmond Morton, Director of the Montreal-based McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. $18.95

A Prayer for Teachers at Christmas

by Kathleen G. Soucoup

In early November, God, people were pulling out their appointment books to enter commitments for parties to celebrate Christmas. As one more block was pencilled in, I wondered how many of us were going to leave time to celebrate the birth of Your Son, Your gift to the world.

Amid all the planning, shopping, wrapping, cleaning and partying, will You be generous again and gently nudge us into remembering "the reason for the season?"

We use a lot of effort in teaching our young ones gratitude when we, the teachers, too often don't practise what we preach. You know our frailties, God. We are grateful for all you have done for us in our lives—help us to express that gratitude to You more often.

Please, God, help us also to remember that actions speak louder than words. That it is not enough for us to mouth platitudes about how much we care; we must go into the world and extend Your love to all those around us.

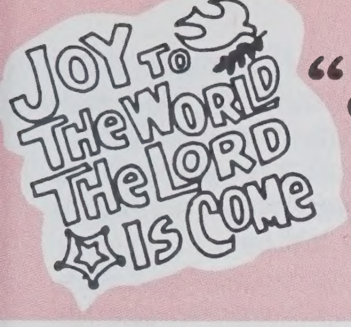
During this loveliest of all seasons, may we seek out Your presence more, not less, and may we in renewal be witnesses to Your power in our lives. Amen.

There ARE Alternatives!

February 9-19, 1996

The 1995-96 TEN DAYS program is designed to help concerned Canadians identify, support and expand emerging alternatives to the bankrupt socio-economic and political systems in both the South and here at home. After a three year process of *re-examining development,* TEN DAYS is convinced that fostering creative thinking about alternatives, promoting awareness of emerging alternatives, and energizing people to participate in identifying and developing local and regional alternatives is an essential element in the search for global justice. With our partners in the Canadian NGO community and in the South, "We recommit ourselves to seek ways to raise awareness and understanding among Canadians of the real choices and alternatives possible to address the global crisis.... It is our belief that the contribution of our organizations is more urgent and important than ever before." (NGOs-Canadian Alternative Statement to UN Social Summit, April 1995).

Contact TEN DAYS at its new location: Suite 401, 77 Charles Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1K5 Phone: (416) 922-0591 Fax: (416) 922-1419


JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD IS COME

"Joy to the World"

by Bonnie Nikkel

Christmas, the greatest of all festivals, is celebrated over the modern world through the observance of both religious and secular customs, which are the heritage of many centuries. Music from all over the world plays an important part in our celebration of Christ's birth. Indeed, who can think of Christmas without carols? But it was not always so. The history of the Christmas carol is a long and checkered one. From the first carol, sung by the angels in the Bethlehem sky, to our modern day, carols have fallen in and out of favor.

Perhaps this is because the carol was based upon dance music, and the medieval church, austere and pietistic, frowned on such unseemly merriment. While minstrels sang of pagan feasts and customs, and heathens watched traditional folk plays during the holiday, churchgoers heard only stately Latin hymns.

In the fifteenth century, a wave of modern humanism swept over the Middle Ages. It lead to the miracle plays and St. Francis' crib-the forerunner of our Christmas creche displays. The carol came into its own. Like the miracle plays, it was a sign of the people's emancipation from the old pietism, which for many centuries, had suppressed dance, drama, and communal singing. Old songs and dances were given new words which reflected this feeling of joy and freedom in Christ. Most of the "old" carols in our hymn books were made during this period in history, the two and a half centuries between Chaucer's death in 1400 and Oliver Cromwell's rule in the 1640s.

During the puritanical reign of Oliver Cromwell and his Roundheads, carols went underground and were preserved in folk songs. In 1647, the Puritan Parliament abolished Christmas altogether. Later, with the restoration of the monarchy, celebrating was back in fashion, but many old carols and masques did not recover. New carols were written, many of which were very poor quality.

The formal world of the eighteenth century largely ignored carols, and many writers intimated that such songs were a thing of the past. Fortunately, the neglected folk-carol continued to exist, and enjoyed a revival in the late nineteenth century. Many new carols were written, and we have them in our hymn book today.

A cursory glance through the Christmas section of our hymn book will reveal familiar names as well as many unknowns. Who were these people, and how did they come to write the carols which mean so much to us in our celebration of Christ's birth?

Isaac Watts wrote the stirring carol, "Joy to the World". He was born more than two hundred years ago, the son of the schoolmaster, in the town of Southampton, England. He was a very intelligent lad, learning Latin by the time he was five, and writing poems and hymns while still in his teens. By the time he was grown, he knew the direction for his life. He wanted to be a minister. At the age of 26, he was invited to be the pastor of the Market Lane Congregational Church in London. But, as is often the way, God intervened in this man's ambition. Watts became quite ill, and had to leave his charge. He traveled to the country estate of an old friend to recover, and ended up staying there for 35 years! There, at Abney Park, his poetic abilities found full vent, and Watts wrote more than 600 poems, most of which were set to music. Isaac Watts, one of the most prolific hymn writers in English history, became known as the "Father of Hymnody".

Watts found his inspiration for "Joy to the World" in Psalm 98: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise...for He cometh to judge the earth..." He published the verses in 1719 as part of The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament. A man named Edward Hodges wrote some fine music for the verses. This tune, however, is not the one we are familiar with. Many have ascribed the current tune to Handel, but this is based on nothing more than the fact that the first four descending notes are the same as a certain chorus in the Messiah. The simple truth seems to be that the tune was composed by that highly gifted individual, "Anonymous". A portion of it is arranged in the "fuguing" manner so popular in the 18th century, and still attractive today.

Probably the most popular carol in the world today is "Silent Night". Since its first public performance on Christmas Eve in 1818, it has been translated into more than 90 different languages and dialects. Yet it might never have been written if the organ in the Church of St. Nikola had been in better repair.

Father Nostler, a sour and crusty old man, was the parish priest in the Austrian village of Oberndorf, near Salzburg, on the frozen banks of the river Salzach. He was away from the village on the morning of December 24, 1818. So it was his assistant, Father Joseph Mohr, who discovered, to his horror, that the church organ was out of commission, either from rust, or from the gnawing of a hungry mouse on the leather bellows.

Upon finding the organ out of commission, Father Mohr was forced to use his ingenuity. Although it would be impossible to get an organ-mender in time for the midnight service, Christmas Eve Mass without music was unthinkable.

At once, Father Mohr set to work and wrote the words to a Christmas song. That afternoon, he asked his friend, Franz Gruber, to set them to music. Gruber was the church organist, and village schoolmaster. By evening he had a melody arranged for two male voices, tenor and baritone, and a children's chorus. Gruber would accompany them on the guitar. The song was sung that night.

In the middle of May, the organ-mender arrived. By that time, Father Mohr was no longer in the parish. Whether the organ-mender found a copy of the song lying around, and took it, or whether he asked for a copy, is not clear. We do know that as he traveled around, mending and building organs, he took the carol with him. It was adopted by two groups of Tyrolese traveling singers, the Strassers, and the more professional Rainers. One group sang it before the King of Prussia; the other traveled as far as the United States, making the carol famous there. The names of Mohr and Gruber were forgotten.

Finally, in 1854, an official inquiry into the origin of the carol established the truth. But by then, Mohr had died, penniless. Today, in Oberndorf, the Silent Night Memorial Chapel stands, in honor of the obscure poet and musician who wrote "The Song From Heaven" in a single day.

A mere decade after the authorship of "Silent Night" was established, a prominent American cleric was making a memorable visit to the Holy Land. Philips Brooks was the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Boston. People flocked there to hear him speak, for he was one of the greatest preachers in all the country at that time. He was born in Boston in 1835 and at the age of thirty, he visited the Holy Land. On the day before Christmas, he rode on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, visiting the fields where, tradition says, the shepherds had watched their flocks. In the early evening, he came upon the peaceful little village of Bethlehem. No doubt, his heart was filled with wonder as he thought of the blessed night when Jesus was born in that very place.

Three years later, back in America, Brooks wanted to write a Christmas song for the children of his Sunday school. He must have reminisced about his visit to Bethlehem. Lovingly, he put the words on paper: "O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie." The young church organist, Lewis Redner, wrote music for the verses. The words and music were hastily printed on leaflets, and sung on Christmas morning by six Sunday school teachers and thirty-six children.

Little did Brooks realize that someday all the world would be singing his beautiful carol. In 1892 it appeared in the hymnal of the Episcopal Church, after having been forgotten for many years. Brooks did not live to see this, however. He died in 1891, after becoming the Episcopalian Bishop of Massachusetts.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was a well-known American poet when he penned the words to "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." Like almost all of Longfellow's verses that have been arranged as songs, these were never intended to be a hymn at all. Instead, they were a reflection of the gloom he felt as he faced a season dedicated to good will and joy, which he was not experiencing. It was December, 1863, and the American Civil War was raging. Longfellow's son, a young lieutenant in the Union Army, had been seriously wounded. The poem, written under the title of "Christmas Bells," is filled with the author's sorrow, although it ends on a note of hope.

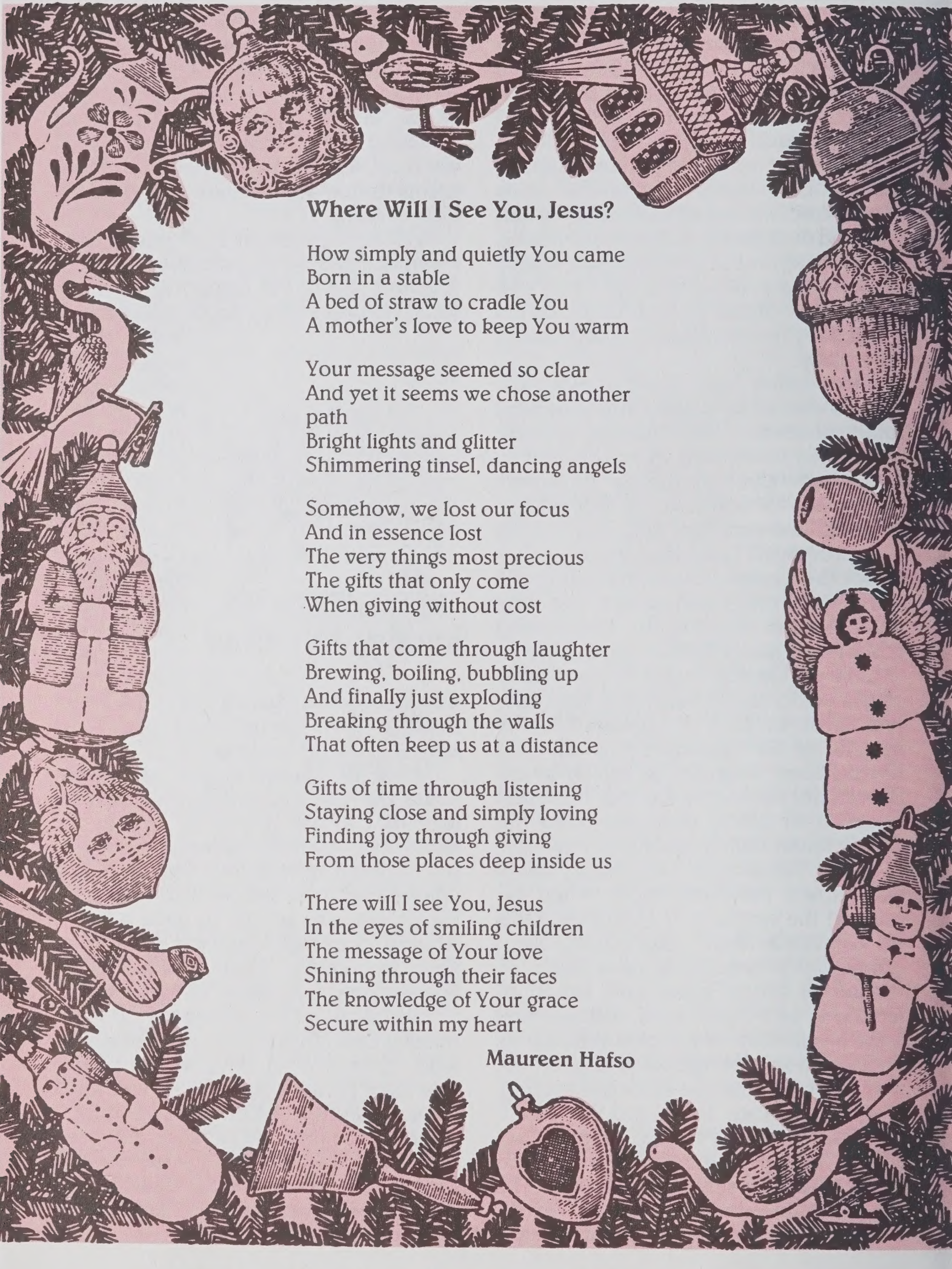
Longfellow's verses have been sung to various tunes. The version that is most often heard today was written by Johnny Marks, of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" fame. This particularly poignant carol seems very modern in its sentiments during this, the last decade of the 20th century.

William Chatterton Dix was a staid insurance company executive in Bristol, England, during the reign of Queen Victoria. He was also an accomplished poet and hymn writer. From his pen came two of our popular carols "What Child Is This?" and "As With Gladness, Men of Old." The tune used for the former came from a plaintive love ballad, usually called "Greensleeves," that was well-known as long ago as Elizabethan times.

Let Earth
Receive Her King

"As With Gladness" was written because Dix was troubled by the medieval legends that had grown up around the visit of the wise men. It seems that he was recovering from a serious illness in 1860 when he set these words down on paper. He deliberately set out to write a hymn in which the Magi would not be kings, or three in number. Their only identification was that they were "men of old."

The history of the Christmas carol is a thrilling one. Those poets and musicians who, by their craft, have set the Christmas story to music, have done us a great service. Carols give Christians a common voice to express the jubilant emotions they feel as they celebrate Jesus' birth. A time when all Christians, regardless of differences, sing together, "Joy to the world! The Lord is come!".



Where Will I See You, Jesus?

How simply and quietly You came
Born in a stable
A bed of straw to cradle You
A mother's love to keep You warm

Your message seemed so clear
And yet it seems we chose another
path
Bright lights and glitter
Shimmering tinsel, dancing angels

Somehow, we lost our focus
And in essence lost
The very things most precious
The gifts that only come
When giving without cost

Gifts that come through laughter
Brewing, boiling, bubbling up
And finally just exploding
Breaking through the walls
That often keep us at a distance

Gifts of time through listening
Staying close and simply loving
Finding joy through giving
From those places deep inside us

There will I see You, Jesus
In the eyes of smiling children
The message of Your love
Shining through their faces
The knowledge of Your grace
Secure within my heart

Maureen Hafso

Water is Life - As God is Salvation

by Peter Gray

Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa - mountains, trees, plains, hippos, eagles, sunshine, honest genuine people, hard labour, survival, God's love, but not much water. This was the trip and experience of a lifetime, and one that has changed my life forever. While on my short, two-week trip to Malawi, I saw people living a life of faith and witnessed happenings that I know undoubtedly were God's doing. Water is life - as God is salvation.

The "Malawi Well Project" was officially kicked off in September, 1994 at Central Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, Ontario when David and Miriam Barrie, members of Central and missionaries to Malawi introduced Brian Kandiero, Director of the Projects Office, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) to our Clerk of Session. The Barries, along with Mr. Kandiero formally requested of the Session that our church raise the necessary funds to drill a well and equip it with a pump, at the Naming'azi Farm Training Centre located about 6 km north of the City of Zomba, Malawi where the Barries have been working since 1990.

The Barries explained the critical needs for a well at the farm, as the intermittent springs which the farm utilizes slows to just a trickle during the long, hot dry season. The well is intended to supply water to the school, the hostel, farm workers and local villagers. Without a dependable supply of groundwater that is not subject to drought to the same degree as surface springs and streams, the farm cannot be used as it is intended and the hostel will remain empty.

This project instantly struck a chord with me, as I am a hydrogeologist and have been involved in many projects across Ontario developing water supplies for towns, cities, and various types of developments. I am also an elder at Central Church and was elated when our Session unanimously agreed to support raising funds to help in the drilling of the well at Naming'azi. While at the September, 1994 Session meeting I asked Mr. Kandiero if they had thought about how much water they were looking for, or how many people the well would supply water to. After thinking for a moment, he said that "the well would supply many, and that the average Malawian uses about 25 litres per day". I noted, to give some perspective to this, that the average Canadian (for drinking, cooking, washing, etc.) uses about 375 litres per day, or about 15 times more than Malawians. It was then that I realized how little water they need but even without this small amount they could not survive - water is life!

From September to January, 1995 our church had raised $5,000 for the "Malawi Well Project" through various fund-raising activities. These funds were matched by PWS&D so that a total of $10,000 was available, which was the target set at the beginning of the fund-raising drive! As the months passed I spoke several times with David and Miriam about the well project, as I had developed a keen interest and offered to do whatever I could to help them.

About a week before they were to leave Cambridge for Malawi, David said to me "Pete, we could really use your help and expertise when the rig is at the site. What are the possibilities of you joining us for a few weeks over there?" I thought it was a great idea but said that there was no way I could afford it (airline ticket alone cost $2,500 - $5,000), and I have a pregnant wife, Carolyn, at home along with three children, Matthew, Bethany and Luke. Plus I didn't know if I could get time off work.

After praying about it, and talking about it with many people, the whole matter was resolved. One of my clients in Cambridge, Canadian General-Tower Limited, had agreed to cover my airline ticket, and numerous individuals contributed funds to help cover my expenses. It was amazing to see God's work in action. I knew that He was making all this happen. Four weeks later, in spite of some negative messages from my company, I was off to Africa, a place I had dreamed of going since I was a young boy.

David and Miriam greeted me in Malawi with what felt like the warmest reception I had ever received; while we all couldn't actually believe that I was there. God had delivered me safely to the place that before then I had only dreamed of seeing. After loading up the Toyota 4WD pickup with all my gear, including two large duffel bags full of knitting from women at Central, and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we set out on our nearly two-hour journey to the place where the Barries were staying, the Chilema Ecumenical Centre. The scenery we passed was breathtaking. Old mountains, plains, mud or hand-made brick huts with grass thatched roofs, rough roads and hot burning sunshine. God's splendour was in full bloom!

While travelling to Chilema, David explained that CCAP had given a down payment to a Water Board located close to Naming'azi which would enable them to subcontract a drilling firm for the drilling of our well. Before I travelled to Malawi, David told me that I might not actually see any drilling but he would do his best to arrange it while I was there.

David had been into the Water Board almost every day for two weeks prior to my arrival to check on the status or whereabouts of the drill rig. However, he was unable to give me any news, as his contact at the Water Board was never in when he was. I tried to prepare myself in the event that there would be no drilling. I was so sure that I would because I was seeing God's hand at work. Was I confusing my plan with God's plan? The Bible says "to trust, to wait on the Lord", so we prayed for patience and perseverance.

After no news for three days, the drillers arrived at Naming'azi totally unannounced. We were amazed, and thankful for this and marvelled at what our Lord can accomplish. God had delivered! However, near the completion of our first borehole (or "well" in Canada - in Malawi a "well" is something a bucket is lowered into, and usually hand dug), we soon realized that this hole was going to be dry. I reassured everyone that dry holes are part of the drilling business for water exploration, and suggested that we move to another location. After learning from the drillers that the only person who could authorize the drillers to drill another borehole was our contact at the

Water Board, we set off to see if he was in. We returned to the farm after learning that our contact was not to be found, and watched brokenheartedly as the drilling rig drove off the site.

I remember thinking "O.K. God, what's your point? You provided us with the money, brought me halfway around the world and delivered a drilling rig to our site only to be faced with a dry hole and the experience of standing and watching helplessly as the drilling rig departs." Disappointment, frustration, anger were just a few of the feelings which we all were experiencing. Again, we prayed and remembered that God was in control. All we could do was trust and wait.

Another week passed while we tried daily to arrange for another drilling rig, all the time knowing that my stay in Malawi was quickly drawing to a close. Then, at 4:30 p.m. on the day before I was to leave, another drilling rig showed up at our site! Our spirits were suddenly soaring again. As it grew dark on my last night in Africa the drillers set up their equipment and prepared to drill. The drill rig broke down! Although the drillers tried to reassure us, we were skeptical whether they would be drilling on my last day in Malawi. All we could do was pray, and trust.

We awoke early on my last day, loaded my gear into the pickup for the long drive to the airport, and headed off to Naming'azi for my last short visit. We arrived at the farm to be greeted by the sound of drilling. It was strange how musical it sounded. We then met Anderson Kumwendo, the Farm Director, as he came running down the hill towards us yelling "we hit water!" We were dumbfounded, but exhilarated.

I watched the water splashing and gushing up to the surface from the drilling with tears in my eyes. God had delivered. It was amazing how well this all fit in with some of my favourite Scriptures: *Isaiah 12:1-6:* "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" and *Numbers 20:2-11:* "Moses struck the rock - water flowed out for the community and livestock to drink."

There was now water for the farm, the school, the hostel, and the community to drink! God had really provided for these people. God is salvation!

I returned home with this amazing story and thought I would be on top of the world. In fact, it was quite the opposite. I was somewhat depressed and confused by these mixed and unsettled feelings.

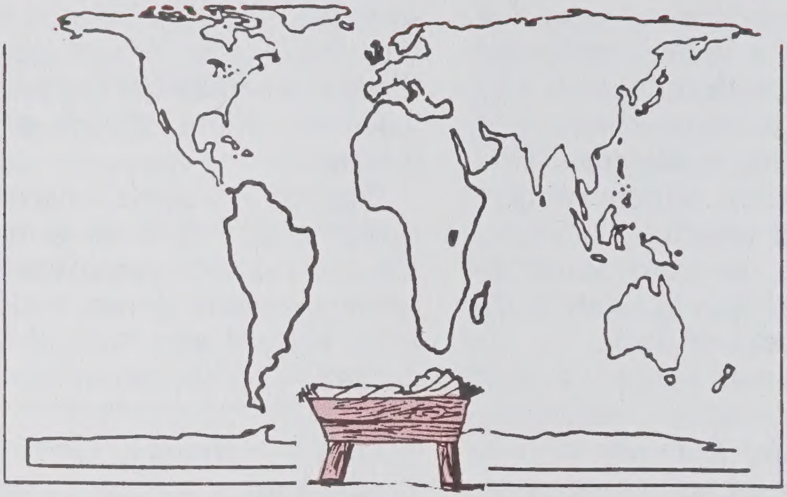
Praying for some answers, I quickly understood that there is much more to life and my new experiences than what we may want or desire, and that we must truly believe and trust that God is in control. God has put us here to do God's work and when we do this God's plan will be revealed to us. I remember thinking of what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well (John 4:4-15) "whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The average Canadian (for drinking, cooking, washing, etc.) uses about 375 litres per day, or about 15 times more than Malawians.

I know that God has great plans for me although I don't know what they are, but that is O.K. When I returned from Malawi with a renewed faith I realized that God wanted me to make some changes in my life. I have made some significant changes, including a change in job. I have also tried to share my story with as many people as possible.

We need water here on earth in order to survive; without it we will surely perish. We also need to invite Christ into our lives, and to do His work, for without Him we will also surely perish. Water is life - as God is salvation! Thanks be to God for water, my amazing life-changing trip to Africa, and all the lessons which I have learned.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 1995



(Peters Projection Map)

The Gift That Was Meant For Everybody Worldwide

by Anne Saunders

Call To Worship:
Almighty God, You surprised the world when You came in the birth of Your son, Jesus Christ. People had been waiting for a King, not a baby born in poverty. Yet, His coming has been accepted and retold by people of many cultures, in virtually every country of the world. People everywhere are challenged by this gift in its simple, universal and unexpected expression. How surprising, how humbling, and how wise is Your love for us!

Hymn: 'Twas in the moon of wintertime (Book of Praise #139), Huron Indian Carol

First Reading: Luke 1:26a-31,34-35,37-38
...God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her. She was thoroughly shaken.... But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you.... Nothing, you see, is impossible with God." And Mary said, "Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say."

Reflection:
Mary was pregnant and not married. How embarrassing for her friends, her family, and her fiancé. While Mary knew this was the work of the Holy Spirit, none but Joseph and Elizabeth, her cousin, had any understanding of this. Mary accepted the 'surprise' and embraced it. How many of us respond to life's surprises with such faith?

What would we have done had we known Mary? How many of us could have been a friend to her, accepting her situation, passing no judgment, and emotionally supporting her through those lonely and uncertain months? How many of us are able to do this today with people who are struggling alone, ashamed, and afraid?

Hymn: Silent night! holy night! (Book of Praise #122 Verses 1&3), German Carol (Verse 1 in German if wished)

Verse 1: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht.
Nur das traute, heilige Paar,
Holder Knabe im lokki-gen Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

Second Reading: Luke 2:1-7
...Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire.... Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

Reflection:
The timing could not have been worse. Mary's pregnancy was almost full term and the trip to Bethlehem had been necessary. Joseph had neither the money nor the influence to arrange a place to stay. How poor and outcast she must have felt as she gave birth in a stable among animals. It was not the way she had hoped or ever imagined. How many times have we lived through real life situations that were entirely different from our hopes and dreams?

What would we have done as innkeepers in Bethlehem? Would we have let Mary and Joseph use our stable? Would we have made up one more bed, set one more place at our table? Today in our busy and demanding lives we try to plan our time, organize our efforts, and budget our money. How many of us are ready to respond spontaneously to untimely and unexpected requests for help?

Hymn: Il est né, le divin Enfant, French Carol - Traditional
Alternate Hymn: Child in the manger (Book of Praise #136), Gaelic Melody

Third Reading: Luke 2:8-12,15-18
There were sheepherders camping in the neighbourhood.... Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped

in a blanket and lying in a manger." ...They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child.

Reflection:
Following the angel's appearance, the shepherds went to the stable, saw the baby, and accepted him as the Savior. Their response came as easily as Mary's acceptance of her pregnancy. The shepherds could understand the bare surroundings of the stable. They themselves lived among animals. They saw a baby with beginnings like their own. Yet, they believed this child was the Savior whose life could make a difference worldwide. For many people today, the circumstances of Jesus' birth are very significant. Like the shepherds, they feel Jesus came as one of them. They feel he knows their troubled lives intimately.

What would we have felt had we stumbled on the stable scene? Would we too have looked at the baby and seen the Son of God in him? As we look around our world today, how many of us see Jesus in the faces of people who are poor? How many of us reach out to God's Spirit in them?

Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain, (#404 in The Hymn Book of the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada [red]), Traditional Christmas Spiritual
Alternate Hymn: Shepherds in the field abiding (Book of Praise #125), French carol

Fourth Reading: Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village...a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on a pilgrimage to worship him." ...Instructed by the king, they set off.... [The star] led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They entered...and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

Reflection:
With the arrival of the wisemen, events that night became more surprising. These were sophisticated people from another region. These were people who were given audience with the king. Yet, they too accepted the stable scene in all its poverty and simplicity. Strangely, these scholars with inquiring minds asked no questions. In fact, they believed before they had found the baby. And when they were finally in the baby's presence, they humbled themselves, bowing down and presenting gifts.

What would we have done if we had seen that star in the eastern sky? Would we have understood immediately like the wisemen who were so familiar with the words of the prophets? Would we have 'dropped everything' and set off eagerly to "pay homage" to the Savior? How many of us today believe in God's power in another community and in the midst of poverty? How many of us are ready to be humble in the presence of someone who is in poor and lowly circumstances?

Hymn: The Virgin Mary had a baby boy, Caribbean Christmas Spiritual
Alternate Hymn: The first Nowell (Book of Praise #131), Traditional English Carol

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,
Open our hearts to Your challenges
so that we may be like Mary and Joseph who were ready to serve You
in whatever way You wanted and whose faith remained firm.
Open our eyes to Your children
so that we may be like the shepherds who quickly recognized Your presence
in the baby in the stable and who readily told others the news.

Open our minds to Your messengers
so that we may be like the wisemen who believed without seeing and who were eager
to respond generously and in humility to the baby in the manger.
AMEN.

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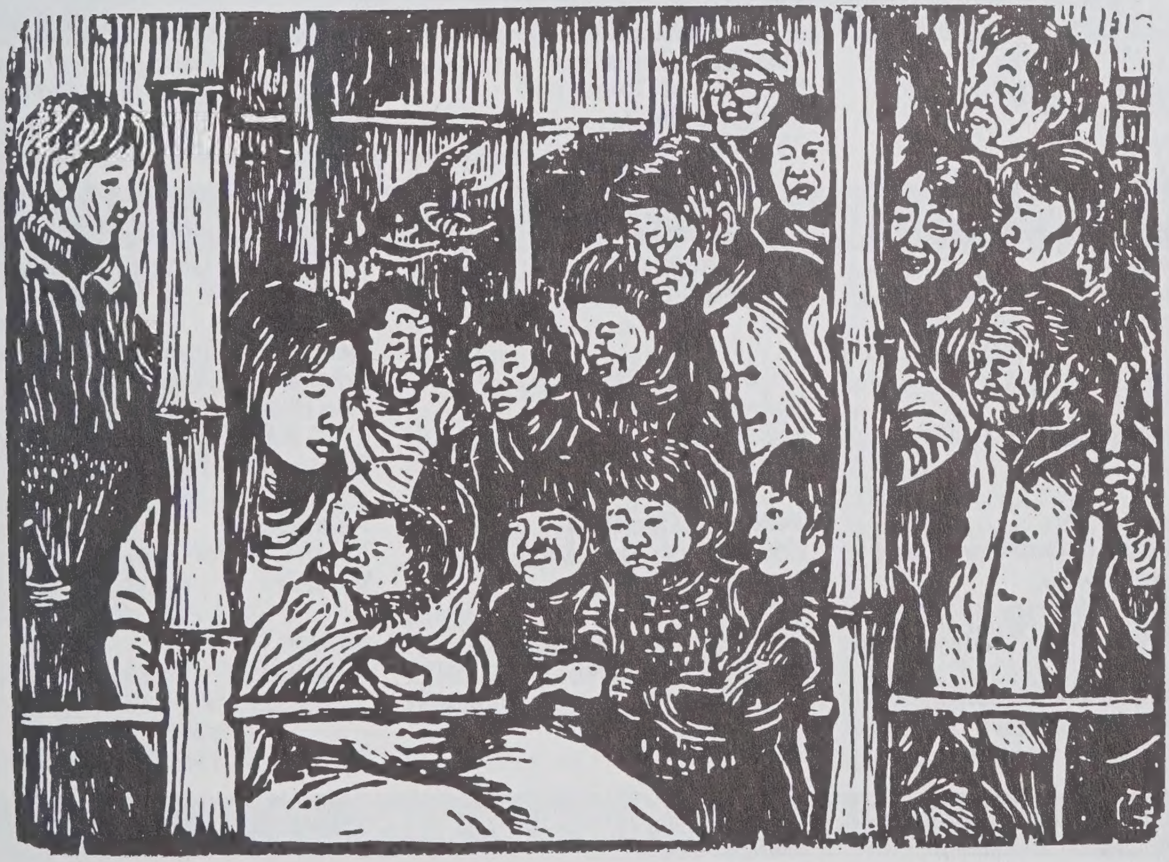

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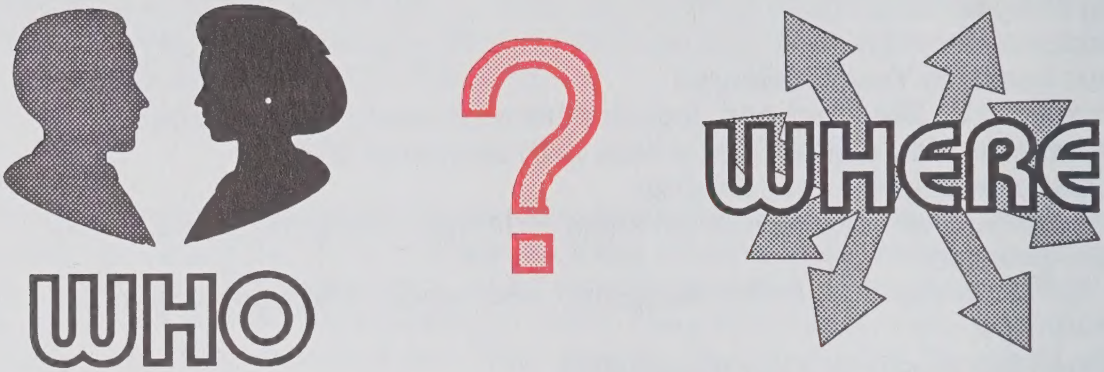

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Managua, Nicaragua

Denise Van Wissen
c/o Soynica
Apartado 4451
Managua, Nicaragua

Ken Kim
c/o Hermandad De Presbiterios
Mayas
11 Ave. "A" 8-49, Zona 2,
Cuidad Nueva,
Guatemala City, Guatemala

GUYANA
Rev. Dr. James Farris
109 New Road Vreed-en-Hoop
West Coast Demerara
Guyana, South America

HONG KONG
Mrs. Susan Raeburn-Cherradi
c/o Amity Foundation
Coordination Office
4 Jordan Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong

"I"-Witness

My very dear friend "Leni" was confined to hospital in Vancouver for several weeks suffering from pain and depression. On the floor of the hospital, there lived two cats. They were supposed to bring love and affection to the patients on the floor, but these two cats were of the usual aloof, "mind your own business and we'll mind ours" breed and kept very much to themselves.

However, for some reason known only to the cats themselves, they took a fancy to Leni and began visiting her daily in her room, arriving for breakfast and not leaving until evening, except for nature's calls. They cuddled on her bed, snuggled up to her and purred their heads off, she said.

Now Leni is not known to be a cat lover, but it seems that these two cats knew her better than she did herself.

Her depression began to lift, and she began to look forward to these two cats.

Eventually she was discharged from the hospital and went home.

Last week she returned to the hospital for some tests and went to the nurses' station to report. There, the two cats immediately made a bee-line for her, jumping into her lap where she sat, and snuggling up against her, purring loudly.

The nurses said that after Leni had left the cats resumed their former aloof attitude toward other patients although they occasionally visited her room to see if she had returned.

Kay Berry,
Richmond, B.C.

WRITING/DRAWING CONTEST FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

(In relation to the 1995-96 Learning/Sharing Project)

"Hope for Street Kids"

WRITTEN SUBMISSION
Submissions are invited from any children and youth on the topic "Hope for Street Kids." In 300 words or less write a poem, prayer or essay expressing your thoughts on the topic. Make your piece upbeat and show your awareness of the difficulties facing street kids around the world.

Areas you might focus on are how Canada cares for its children and youth; what the United Nations does to improve the lives of children around the world through health care, education, human rights and so on. What do you think can be done by individuals, countries and/or organizations like the church so that children and youth can live in peace and well-being?

This contest is open to all children and youth. Those taking part in the 1995-96 Learning-Sharing/Offering Project will have a variety of materials available to them.

Submissions will be judged by the Editor of Glad Tidings, and persons related to Children and Youth work in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The first prize winner will receive a book award. Second and third place will also be recognized. All winning entries will be published in the Glad Tidings, the official publication of the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Deadline for submissions: August 31, 1996.

Written submissions should be typed, double-spaced, with name, age, congregation and mailing address of writer on the submission, and addressed to: The Editor, Glad Tidings, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7.

DRAWING
Young artists are invited to send drawings to the Glad Tidings on the topic "Hope for Street Kids" (see information in paragraph two on first page). Make your artwork upbeat and show your awareness of the difficulties faced by street kids around the world.

Submissions of artwork should be on good quality 8 1/2 by 11 white paper, and drawn OR outlined in black. If artwork is only done with crayon, pencil crayon or watercolour, it will be difficult to reproduce in the Glad Tidings.

Each submission should be labelled clearly on the back with name, age, congregation, mailing address of artist. First, second and third place will be acknowledged with a prize given to the first place winner. Winning entries will be published in the Glad Tidings.

Send contest entries by August 31, 1996 to: The Editor, Glad Tidings, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7.

PRESBYTERIAL AND SYNODICAL GIVINGS

January to August 1995

SYNODICAL	PRESBYTERIAL	ACTUAL	OBJECTIVE	%
British Columbia	Kamloops	$6,592		
	Kootenay	561		
	Vancouver Island	9,773		
	Westminster	15,744		
		32,670		
Alberta	Calgary-MacLeod	14,069		
	Edmonton-Peace River	3,694		
	Central Alberta	4,915		
		22,678		
Saskatchewan	South Saskatchewan	6,708		
	Prince Albert	1,060		
	Saskatoon	3,698		
		11,466		
Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario				
	Brandon	4,692		
	Superior	2,750		
	Winnipeg	7,092		
		14,534		
Hamilton & London				
	Bruce-Grey	13,918		
	Essex-Kent	14,502		
	Hamilton	28,500		
	London	20,835		
	Maitland	12,000		
	Niagara	17,488		
	Paris	6,525		
	Sarnia	14,363		
	Stratford-Huron	27,290		
		155,421		
Toronto and Kingston				
	Algoma	1,894		
	Barrie	25,441		
	Brampton	11,179		
	Kingston	8,585		
	Lindsay	10,000		
	Peterborough	12,309		
	Pickering	7,860		
	East Toronto	19,503		
	West Toronto	11,211		
	Waterloo-Wellington	18,800		
	Oak Ridges	1,358		
		128,140		
Quebec and Eastern Ontario				
	Brockville	4,762		
	Glengarry	8,469		
	Lanark-Renfrew	12,939		
	Montreal	9,500		
	Ottawa	17,075		
	Quebec	3,172		
		55,917		
TOTAL		**420,826**	**1,153,290**	**36.4%**

Forward

In Faith

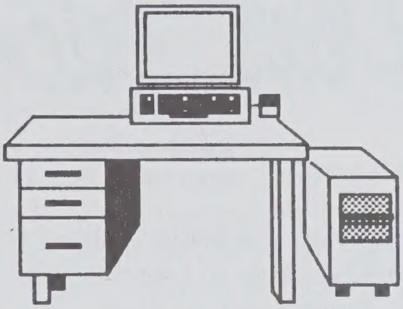
Paul in 1st Corinthians 12:4-6 writes "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all." Members of the Women's Missionary Society demonstrate innumerable gifts of service and working—from the Manitoba women who produced the lovely booklet "Worship from the Heart", to those members at Glencoe, Ontario, trying to keep roadsides tidy, to an amazing multitude of other tasks undertaken by members of each group reflecting that old adage "whatever you do, do with your might; things done by halves are never done right."

It is the spirit of utilizing gifts and talents that keeps the WMS a vital part of the mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Members have been prepared to undertake apparently impossible tasks in far distant mission fields or on our own doorstep—"the difficult tasks we do immediately, the impossible ones take a little longer." Members truly appreciate that it is the power of God working within us that enables us to accomplish what needs to be done.

Our 1995 objective of $1,153,290 represents a VERY large commitment and up to September 30, 1995 we have raised $473,424 a significant percentage of what is required. We have another two months to achieve the amount required to meet our objective so let us carefully assess resources versus needs and discover the method of reaching our goal.

Congratulations to all for your willingness to accept responsibility of spreading God's word whether abroad or at home. "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servants whom I have chosen" (Isaiah 43:19).

CIRCULATION NEWS



Hopefully by now your group subscription list which was due November 1 will have returned to the *Glad Tidings* office. We need to receive these lists in order to have the changes/additions/deletions done for the January/February issue. Also, it saves us time and money in not having to follow up later.

Please check with the *Glad Tidings* Secretary to make sure your address is correct on the subscription list, especially the postal code and your apartment or box number.

If you are not on a congregational list, send the information directly to the Glad Tidings office. Please include the label from a recent Glad Tidings magazine when corresponding.

One way of increasing the *Glad Tidings* subscriptions is through a gift subscription. If you know of someone who might wish to receive the magazine, please give the person's name to the *Glad Tidings* Secretary for her to add to the subscription list. If the list has already been returned, either the GT secretary or you can send the information directly to the office. Make sure it is marked "gift" and who it is from. Also, please indicate whether you wish our office to send a gift card to the "gift" subscriber or whether you wish a card sent to you to be given to them.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

Dear Friends

Stewart Folster,
130 Batoche Cr.,
Saskatoon, SK,
S7M 5B3
August 1995

The journey we have walked together for the past couple of years has been one that has challenged all of us. There have been sad and angry times and times for rejoicing and times when the only thing that made any sense was to sit and reflect quietly so that the only one in control was the Spirit.

We have been informed of the many stories that came out of residential school days and of the history of the Native peoples of Canada—stories now being taught now in Native Studies courses through most of Canada at the high school and university levels.

We hope and pray that the awareness of these events can somehow curb the racism and hatred and violence that is experienced in this country and lead to a brighter future for everyone in Canada. We can never hope to convince everyone that oppression, injustice and harm has been done to the Native children of residential schools but maybe people will begin to think about the matter.

I know many of us now would just like to see all of this put to rest and get on with the business of being a community in Christ. If only it was that simple. Is there something missing in our relationship? Have we ever had any mutual trust and have we ever been able to look at each other on the same level plane?

I hope we can find some love for one another because that is what we are trying to say and to accomplish in this letter.

I am mostly trying to convey my own personal thoughts here but with the support of the National Native Ministries Committee (of which I am the convenor) and on behalf of all Native people in Canada who are presently on the healing road and who continue to walk with Christ in their life and for those who will one day be touched by Him.

As a Christian and as a Native person who follows the "Indian Way" I want to express our thanks for the many years of dedicated service that our servants of Christ have offered to the Native people since the beginning of our first missionaries in Canada.

We want to honor and recognize that many workers in our church have done some wonderful work and have cared for the Native people and have loved them like their own family to the honor and glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As I think back we must honor and remember and give thanks to so many people that it would not be fair to try to list all of their names. If one name was missed in our efforts to write this letter, it would be one too many.

We thank you for all your many years of dedicated loyalty and service to Native peoples. We regret that many of you were hurt by the stories that came out in the drawing up of a confession to Native peoples. I hope that reconciliation and healing can begin to take place for all of us. Forgiveness and love have to be put back into our agendas. We can make that step together and praise God together again as sisters and brothers in Christ if we allow the Spirit to guide us.

In love and service of one God, our Creator and Redeemer,

Stewart Folster,
National Native Ministries Committee Convenor and lay missionary
of the Saskatoon Native Circle
Ministry, The Presbyterian Church
in Canada.

Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Geddes,
7, Alley 16 Lane 315,
Shih-pai Rd. Sect. 2,
Peitou, Taipei, Taiwan 112
July 1995

Betty and I have been reading the *Glad Tidings* for four decades, most of the time on the field in Taiwan. I would like to tell you about two exciting things that are happening here.

About two years ago, the hard-working and brilliant executive director of World Vision Taiwan began to tell people about a personal vision. Dr. Jerry Chang said "In a world split apart by ethnic conflict, hunger and poverty, we must not only identify life values such as service, responsibility, forgiveness and trust, but also live up to them."

The former UN worker dreamed that it would be good to get representatives from all countries to sit down together and identify universal values, and to decide what to do with them. Over the months Chang pursued his vision, selling his idea to his own organization, and getting sponsors among local executives. Six weeks ago Taiwan saw the first part of the dream come true.

Fifty young men and women from as many countries arrived in Taiwan as the first World Vision Youth Ambassadors. They stayed in a convention centre in the mountains on the outskirts of Taipei. Through discussions and workshops, under the WVYA academic director, Dr. Wallace Roark, they identified 31 main life values such as character, harmony with others, love and respect.

The group was also moulded into a chorus by the music director, and the youth began translating words into action. During the past week the Youth Ambassadors have appeared in some Taipei churches, department stores and concert halls. After their island-wide concert tour they will make presentations in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Then these specially selected and trained young people, aged 17 to 19, will go back home to make a difference.

This is the way one Christian layman is going beyond compassion to translate his vision values for the world into action.

With inspired vision we should be able to introduce new ideas into our classes, homes and communities.

Sincerely,
Jack

Dick and Jane Paul,
c/o MAF, Box 21285,
Nairobi, Kenya,
Africa
May 1995

When we returned from vacation in August 1994 Dick realized Leta, the Zairian he hired to replace him, was making good progress in learning the work, but he would not be completely trained by June 1995 when we would normally have retired. We also realized we needed to train two other nationals to work with Leta, to ensure continuity if one left. At that time we spoke to both MAF Canada and the Presbyterian Church and they agreed it was a good plan for us to continue in Zaire until December 1996 to complete the training.

Unfortunately the church's budget included funding for our work through June 1995...because of severe restrictions in the Church's budget for next year, they cannot support our work at all in 1996. We will therefore be continuing with MAF as volunteers from July 1995 until Dick feels his job of training is complete.

We feel called to complete this work to which we have committed the last twelve years of our lives. We also feel blessed to have had the prayers and financial support of many of you over that whole time.

Because He lives,
Dick and Jane

Bill Elliott & Marie Rempel,
Eglise St. Pierre Terminus,
Pointe-Aux-Piments, Mauritius
June 1995

Thank you for your cards at Christmas and Easter. Can you imagine the excitement when the mailman arrives? We sit right down and read the letters together. The miles fall away, and we feel the warmth of your presence. The week before family day the children in the church school were making cards for their parents. One of the girls asked me, "So you have any cards we could use?" I took out my collection of all the cards you have sent us. The children eagerly set to cutting and pasting. What joy there was in our class that day!

Last Christmas one of our dreams came true. Bill's brother, his wife and children, and our niece and nephew came to visit us. With them we discovered new things about our island and returned to places we love. We found Pizza Hut in Port Louis. We swam and watched fish in lagoons on all sides of the island. New Year's Day found us mountain climbing. What a glorious way to start the new year - standing on a windswept cliff with beauty spread out below!

France Cangy who has worked as assistant pastor with Bill is now studying in Fiji. His course there will qualify him to work as a full pastor. France's wife, Veronique, has accompanied him to Fiji, and is also studying.

On July 20 we leave Mauritius for furlough in Canada, returning to Mauritius on November 20. During our time in Canada we plan to explore areas of special interest that will help us in our work in Mauritius - for Bill, developing new musical materials, for me, teaching basic literacy.

Our warmest wishes,
Marie & Bill

The Sterlings,
P. O. Box 3355,
Anahim Lake, B. C.
V0L 1C0

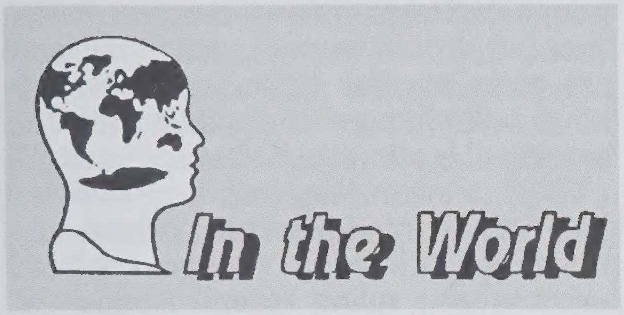
From the Sterling's newsletter last Christmastime, 1994:

We assisted the school children in their Christmas play presentation. The idea was loosely based on the Huron Carol by Father Jean de Brebeuf - taking the story of the Christ child and putting it in Native terms, giving it more meaning for the Native people. Some of the village elders narrated the story in the Carrier language while the children pantomimed the story. Some of the Christmas carols were sung in Carrier.

Mary was a Native virgin, and Jesus was born under a spruce tree. Hunters visited and three elders from a far village brought gifts of juniper, ooligan oil, eagle feathers and meat to the Babe. This adds a richness to a people where mangers, shepherds, magi, gold, frankincense and myrrh have little meaning.

The whole village, especially the children and teacher, worked very hard at translating, making costumes and sets, and practising. The end result was a beautifully done and very meaningful retelling of the mystery and wonder of God becoming man.

Clayton & Stacey



BLEAK PICTURE FOR WORLD'S POOR

Winnipeg—Reports of shrinking global food stocks, rising food prices and declining aid budgets paint a bleak picture for many of the world's poor, says Al Doerksen, Executive Director of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a Winnipeg-based aid agency.

While shrinking world food stocks may mean higher prices for Canadian farmers, Doerksen says it's not such good news for people in Third World countries. The food import bill for low-income, food-deficit countries will rise by about $2.3 billion US in 1995; many poor people will have to buy less food. At the same time, because Canada and many other developing countries are slashing their aid budgets, about 20% less food aid will be available globally. This is a double blow for people living in poorer countries.

"We can't assume hunger is someone else's problem, or fault,", says Doerksen. "Markets are not sympathetic first of all to the biological needs or psychological desires of a person. Rather they are influenced primarily by those with the most purchasing power. It is said that the richest billion people consume 60 times as much of the world's resources as the poorest billion. Perhaps now more than ever, the commitment to share is as important as increased production of food."

This year, Foodgrains Bank food shipments will support people affected by the Rwanda crisis, refugees in Bosnia, and vulnerable people in countries in southern Africa, where widespread drought has caused a massive drop in cereal production. Canadian lentils and canola oil will provide much-needed food to refugees in Guinea; a shipment of potato granules will sustain refugees from the Russian-Chechnya conflict.

Foodgrains Bank partners include Presbyterian constituents.

REBEL CHURCH WELCOMED

Cape Town, 6 July (ENI)—The church which provided the theological "justification" for the former apartheid state has joined forces with the South African Council of Churches (SACC), one of the most powerful anti-apartheid lobbies in South Africa.

The Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK - Dutch Reformed Church) was given observer status to the SACC at a special ceremony on 6 July during the council of church's annual conference being held in Vanderbijlpark, south of Johannesburg.

The Roman Catholic Church was also admitted as a full member to the SACC.

The NGK severed its links with the SACC's predecessor, the Christian Council of South Africa, in 1939 because of political differences. The NGK took the side of the white minority by providing a theological and biblical foundation for racial segregation.

The NGK's return to the fold was accompanied by open expressions of emotion. Renowned Afrikaner theologian and church minister, C. F. Beyers Naude, who was thrown out of the NGK for his anti-apartheid statements and actions in the 60s, wept when the SACC voted to re-accept the NGK.

The NGK, which has 1.3 million members, will now consider applying for full membership of the SACC.—Noel Bruyns

JOINT WORSHIP CANCELLED

Seoul, 31 July (ENI)—A joint church service, bringing together Christians from North Korea and South Korea, has been cancelled because the Seoul government has refused to give approval.

The joint worship—with representatives

of the North's Christian community of approximately 10,000 and of the South's 12 million Christians—had been planned for 13 August to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Korean Peninsula from Japanese rule. The event was also intended to mark a turning-point after 50 years of division and hostility between the two Koreas.

Observers said that the Seoul government feared that the North Korean government would exploit the joint worship for publicity purposes.

However Christians on both sides of the border prayed on 13 August for peaceful reunification of the two countries. Every year since 1988 they have marked the "World Sunday of Prayer for Peace and Reunification of Korea" on the Sunday before 15 August, the date in 1945 when the peninsula gained independence at the end of the Second World War.—Park Kwang Shik

WOMEN TO BE ORDAINED: KOREA

The Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Adams and the Rev. Dr. Carol Chou Adams, missionaries in Korea (Presbyterian Church, USA), wrote from Korea this spring:

"There is a very real possibility that the long winter for women in the Presbyterian Church of Korea is about over. The issue of women's ordination has been before the church for over 60 years but it was not until last year that the General Assembly finally voted in the affirmative. Now the presbyteries are voting on the issue at their spring meetings. On the evening of 18 April Chonbuk Presbytery voted for the ordination of women, something Carol has been waiting for these past 15 years. Although a non-voting associate member of the Presbytery, her mere presence at presbytery meetings kept the issue before the church, for until very recently she was the only ordained woman affiliated with a denomination of about 2,000,000 members. Several years ago one of our women students at Hamil said to Carol, 'Even though the Presbyterian Church of Korea does not ordain women, just looking at you gives me the hope that someday things will change.' It appears that this 'someday' is about to become a reality."

Word came in May that the Presbyterian Church of Korea has indeed approved the ordination of women as both teaching and ruling elders. August 30 was set for a special Celebration and Thanksgiving for the ordination of women.

The moderator of The Presbyterian Church of Korea brought greetings to the 1995 General Assembly in Waterloo of the Presbyterian Church in Canada at the Monday evening banquet. The highlight of that address was his announcement that his church had just approved the ordination of women.

NEWS—MISSION STUDY THEMES

CATHOLIC CHURCH SOFTENS VIEW OF REFORMER

Prague, 11 July (ENI)—An unprecedented decision by the leader of the Czech Republic's Roman Catholics to take part in a commemoration for Jan Hus, the Bohemian reformer who was executed in 1415 as a heretic, could signal a new approach by Roman Catholics to those troubled times in Czech history.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Miloslav Vlk told about 700 people at the service 6 July in Prague's Bethlehem Chapel that his presence signified a "new attitude" to Hus by the Roman Catholic Church, and "new thinking" about the reformer's "position in the Czech nation".

The service, to mark the 580th anniversary of the death of Hus, was attended by the leaders of all the main Protestant denominations in the Czech Republic. It was the first time that a Roman Catholic leader had attended such a commemoration.

Jan Hus, rector of Prague University, was burnt at the stake at the 1415 Council of Constance after being summoned there on a pledge of safe conduct to explain his teachings on the authority of the Bible and the role of the church as a predestined spiritual community.

HAMBURGER SIGN BETTER KNOWN THAN CROSS

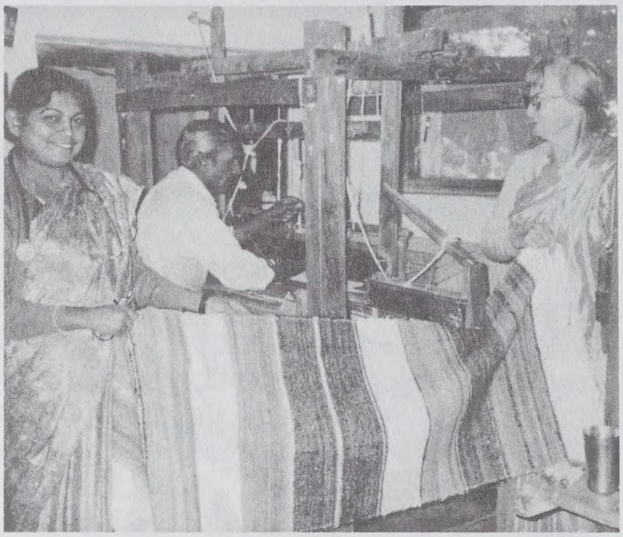
London, 9 August (ENI)—The McDonald's hamburger logo (an arched M) and the shell used by an international petroleum company are better known symbols than the Christian cross, according to a survey of 7,000 people in six countries.

However, best known of all, the survey found, are the five linked rings of the Olympic movement. Of the 7000 people surveyed, 92% correctly identified the Olympic symbol. The Shell and McDonald's logos were each recognised by 88% of those surveyed. The cross was correctly identified by 54%, while 36% recognised the United Nations symbol.

The survey was conducted by a sponsorship and sports marketing research firm, Sponsorship Research International, based in London.

Specialist research firms in Australia, Germany, India, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States carried out the interviews in which each participant was shown nine well-known logos for unaided identification.

The Anglican Bishop of Manchester, Christopher Mayfied, told the Daily Mail newspaper in London: "The Olympic movement, Shell and McDonald's have a worldwide vision, so they are to be congratulated on getting their message across the world. Christianity also has a worldwide vision, but we have not been so successful in communicating the faith, and we have got to do better."



RUNNER PRESENTED

—Dr. Deborah Tezlo (left) with Doreen Morrison (right) in front of loom in the Jobat Weaving Centre. The runner shown was produced by women trainees and presented to the WMS Council meeting last May. It is on display in the WMS Book Room.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE GRANT

Rev. Donald MacKay is shown fourth from right sharing books that arrived at Trinity College, Umuahia, Nigeria as a result of a WMS Christian Literature Fund grant. Beside him on the left is Ven. Omerie, staff member; the rest are students.

OUR READERS Write

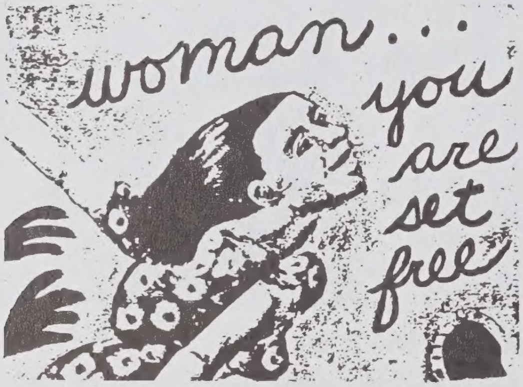
Dear Barbara (Woodruff), WMS,

Thank you for taking the time and energy to find the poster, "Woman You Are Set Free".

I first saw this poster in an associate's office. Coming out of an abusive situation, its message is very liberating!

Peace.

Donna E. Gebil,
McCormick Theological Seminary,
Chicago, Ill.


woman... you are set free

Birthdays

Overseas Staff

December
6 - Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi, Hong Kong
15 - Rick Allen, Kenya
21 - Catherine Chalin Clark, Kenya
24 - Agwu David Onuoha, Nigeria
30 - Gerry Kent, Nepal
31 - Jack McIntosh, Japan

January
16 - Beth McIntosh, Japan
29 - Don MacKay, Nigeria

NEW PRICE

WMS Certificate of Recognition Pin/Charm $33.00 effective November 1, 1995.

Price includes postage/handling and the GST. Make cheque or money order payable to Women's Missionary Society.

ORDER FROM:
Life Membership Department,
Women's Missionary Society,
50 Wynford Drive,
North York, ON M3C 1J7

Correction:
Honorary Memberships 1994 listed in the July/August 1995 *Glad Tidings* should read **Maryka Wester, Victoria, B.C.** not Babs McPherson and Leah Wood, Victoria, B.C.

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSAGE

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In the Society

PRESBYTERIAL

Montreal Presbyterial held its second Weekend Retreat at Presbyterian College June 2-4. Arrangements were made by Druse Bryan and Lois Klempa.

Keynote speaker was Kathleen Skerritt who teaches Christian Theology at McGill University, her theme *Women of the Early Church*. She introduced women such as Thecla not named in the Bible.

Thecla's story was the theme of discussion and workshops. The presentations ended with a simple act of rededication of the vows of baptism.

Bible study with a slide presentation *A Muddle of Marys* introduced discussion of women such as Mary Magdalene.

Judy Lavigne, a student at Presbyterian College, entertained following dinner on Saturday.

Worship on Sunday morning was led by Rev. Glynis Williams.

Even though it was the middle of July there was a good turnout at the Family Pot Luck Picnic of the **South Saskatchewan** Presbyterial held on the lawn of Myrtle Boan.

Mary Mazur, president of the Presbyterian Women of St. Mark's Church, welcomed everyone and led the opening worship. Mae Morris, Regina, accompanied all of the music on her accordion.

Mary Findlay, Swift Current reported on Council '95 followed by Margaret Wilson, Regional Staff, reporting on the Global Issues Conference which was held after Council.

Rev. Apache Song, his wife Ruth and their family of St. Mark's and members of other families made this "family" picnic special.

LOCAL

The WMS of **St. Paul's, Leaskdale**, Ontario fashioned quilt tops from worn corduroy jeans patches during the summer months.

Shown here are left to right Luella Blackburn, Evelyn Harrison, Eldene Weir, Helen Harrison, Jean Kennedy and Elsie Giles trying one of the two quilts which were given for use at a Toronto mission.

As a follow up to the study on Africa, the **Thornton** WMS of **Calvin-Goforth Church, Saskatoon,** Saskatchewan held a Thankoffering meeting with guest speakers from Ghana. Merle McGowan opened the meeting and introduced the speakers.

Steve Adzanu, of Ghana, a student at the University of Saskatchewan, spoke on education and health in Ghana. Grace Martin, a native of Ghana spoke on her religious roots and the role of women. Her husband Michael, a native of Saskatchewan who went to Ghana to work, and married there spoke on his impressions of Ghana and what we could learn from the Ghanaian people.

Gwen Williams thanked the speakers. At the close of the meeting food supplied by Ghanaian friends of the speakers was enjoyed.

The WMS lost a most faithful member on August 9, 1995 in the death of **Gertrude Robertson,** the senior member of St. Andrew's congregation in Windsor, Ontario.

Miss Robertson celebrated her 105th birthday on January 26, 1995 (see Glad Tidings May/June '95 page 46). Alert and always interested, she was beloved by many and her humour was greatly appreciated.

Gertrude began her teaching career in 1907 and served with the Windsor Board of Education from 1917 until her retirement in 1949.

A faithful Christian, Miss Robertson supported Presbyterian mission for more than 80 years. She was a strong supporter of the Laura K. Pelton WMS at St. Andrew's.

Griswoldene Comstock Lewis died at her home at Brockville, Ontario on June 8, 1995 at the age of 94.

For twenty-five years she was an elder of First Church, a former president and life member of the WMS, and served faithfully in the life of the congregation throughout all of her life.

Mrs. Lewis supported many worthy causes in the Brockville area and her generosity and friendly smile were known and loved in the community.

ANNIVERSARY

A wonderful time was had on June 11 when **St. Andrew's, Windsor** celebrated their 138th anniversary. It was also the centennial of the cornerstone-laying of the third church.

The History committee had a display, there were special guests, special music, including a piper, and every group in the church helped make this a special occasion. The Sunday School children did special art work for the walls.

Gertrude Robertson, senior member, sent a beautiful bouquet and congratulations.

Pictured is Sadie Williams, 99 years of age, a faithful WMS member who cut the cake at the reception following a special service.

THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN: WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

"Threatened with Resurrection", the Five-Year Plan of the WMS urges its members to *Stand Up! Speak Up! and Be Counted!* The WMS seniors of the Forest Afternoon Group have listened and have taken action that is worth sharing.

Margaret Lester, president of the group (and a past president of the Presbyterial) wrote the Presbyterial:

"Last fall our WMS got down to 4 or 5 members attending. Some members have died and others now live in the North Lambton Rest Home and Apartments. Others no longer drive."

The group, not wanting to disband, wondered about their future. They came to the following decision. Presently they are meeting three times yearly in the craft room of the North Lambton Rest Home apartments where there are no steps to conquer. They invite senior women of other denominations to join them, resulting in attendance now being increased to 15 or 16.

A basket is placed on a table for offerings with an explanation that while it is there primarily for their members, all gifts will be thankfully received. A cheque will be sent to the presbyterial treasurer three times annually.

Perhaps what is working well for the Forest WMS seniors could be tried by other groups faced with declining attendance.

Lois Watson,
Sarnia Presbyterial Press Secretary

WHAT IS BEING DONE BY YOUR GROUP OR IN YOUR AREA IN RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN? WRITE TO THE EDITOR, GLAD TIDINGS AND SHARE YOUR ACTIVITIES SO THAT THE ENTIRE SOCIETY MAY BE INSPIRED AND RENEWED.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Margaret Mulock,
Mrs. Jennie Stephenson,
(former Board of World Mission staff)
Knox, Agincourt, Ont.

Mrs. John H. (Chrissie) McKinney,
Burn's, Ashburn, Ont.

Mrs. Sheila Mavor,
Mrs. Helen Warnica,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, Ont.

Mrs. Mae Dermott,
St. Andrew's, Beeton, Ont.

Mrs. Helen (Peggy) Hurst,
St. Andrew's (Hespeler),
Cambridge, Ont.

Mrs. Mabel Inverarity,
Mrs. Nellie McKinnon,
Mrs. Gertrude Muirhead,
Knox-Zion, Carberry, Man.

Mrs. Elsie Comley,
Maplewood, Chateauguay, Que.

Mrs. Jean Cook,
Cookstown, Ont.

Mrs. Maisie Shaver,
St. John's, Cornwall, Ont.

Mrs. Janette Marshall,
Knox, Normanby, Ont.

Mrs. Elizabeth Foerter,
St. Mark's, Orillia, Ont.

Mrs. Emily Ann Mason,
Westminster, Ottawa, Ont.

Mrs. Ada Fraser,
First, Port Colborne, Ont.

Phyllis May Stilborn,
First, Regina, Sask.

Mrs. Hedley (Hazel) McLean,
Knox, St. Catharines, Ont.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Bessie) Frank,
St. Mary's, Ont.

Mrs. Della Drew,
Westminster, Smiths Falls, Ont.

Mrs. Margaret Wright,
St. Andrew's, Swinton Park, Ont.

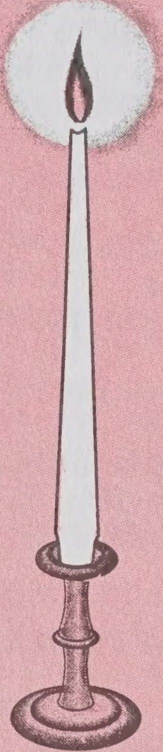
Mrs. Lucy Sillers,
(former member of Riverdale Church)
St. David's Village, Toronto, Ont.

Helen Wilson,
St. Andrew's, Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Helen Black,
Knox, Wallaceburg, Ont.

Miss Reta Calhoun,
Weston, Ont.

Mrs. Jean Aichison,
Mrs. Lila B. Shickluna,
St. Andrew's, Wingham, Ont.



Prince of Peace

Slender taper, white as snow,
Waxy aura all aglow;
Warming firelight flickers round,
Gentle hissing crackling sound.

Bible open, blazing truth,
Moses, Jacob, Isaac, Ruth;
Times of battle, times of flight,
Bloodline of that wondrous night.

Angel horns still faintly blowing,
Donkeys braying, cattle lowing,
New lambs swathed in soft white fleece;
Born tonight the Prince of Peace!

Jennifer Ruth Allan
Age 14

Glad Tidings is printed
on recycled paper

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Please report any errors/changes in address.